Rahman's request for new trial denied. PAGE 2
Non-NMD surviving spouse gets half of property. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

Change to succession law passes Senate

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A senator's bill to amend the succession law passed the Senate yesterday during a session in the Senate chamber on Capitol Hill.

With a vote of 6-1, Sen. Francisco Borja's (R-Tinian) Senate Bill 20-79 SD2 passed the Senate with Sen. Paul Mangloña (Ind-Rota) against and Sens. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) and Teresita Santos (R-Rota) opting to abstain.

S.B. 20-79 authorizes the governor to appoint an individual to the

See CHANGE on Page 4

GREEN CHRISTMAS TREE
Commonwealth Utilities Corp. deputy executive director Charles Manglona and CUC Rota staff worked together for a period of two weeks to build a 45-foot Christmas tree made out of coconut leaves, local natural ornaments, and a recycled CUC power pole. CUC executive director Gary Camacho would like to express his sincere appreciation to the Rota staff on the efforts in making a beautiful Christmas tree.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Let's clear the air

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I appreciate that the members of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. took the time to meet with me during their lobbying trip to Washington. It is regrettable that NMBAC came away from our meeting disappointed. Unfortunately, I cannot please everybody. But I do try to listen to the diverse and often conflicting voices that make up our community, many of which claim to speak in the best interests of all the people of the Marianas, and some of which sometimes say they want one thing and then change their minds later. It's not easy, but I signed on to work for the people of the Marianas.

See column on Page 14

Operation times of shooting galleries and ranges amended

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Hocog

Both shooting galleries and shooting ranges now have time restrictions on their time of operations.

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog enacted into law last Wednesday a measure that restricts shooting galleries and shooting ranges within a specific time in the day.

According to Public Law 20-29, shooting galleries are allowed from 9am to 11pm while shooting ranges are only allowed to operate from 9am to 8pm.

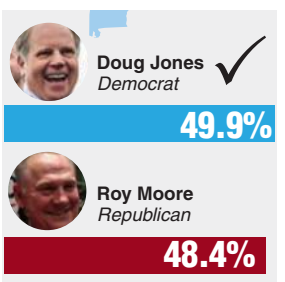
Shooting galleries as defined by P.L. 18-26, are licensed business places with a minimum capital investment of $500,000 in which

See OPERATION on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Members of Mount Carmel School's newest club, VOX Knights, fared well in recent competitions.

PAGE 21



NATION
Weary national Republicans breathed a collective sigh of relief on Wednesday, a day after voters knocked out their own party's scandal-plagued candidate in deep-red Alabama.

PAGE 24

LIFE & STYLE
This Saturday the fiercest of all international model searches–the Asian Supermodel Contest–will be held on Saipan.

PAGE 27

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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Local

Rahman's request for new trial denied

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI District Court Designated Judge John Coughenour denied the motion for a new trial requested by Muksedur Rahman.

A jury convicted Rahman and three others for mail fraud, fraud in foreign labor and contracting, and misuse of visas and permits on Oct. 18, 2017.

Through his defense council Robert Torres, Rahman filed a motion for a new trial or judgment of acquittal back in Oct. 30 because he claims that the government lacked the sufficient evidence to support his conviction and because of the alleged errors during closing arguments. Unfortunately for him, the court denied the motion on Dec. 11, 2017.

Evidence used to convict Rahman included letters, testimonies of witnesses, and various documents such as bank records.

Rahman claims that the evidence used against him does not show fraudulent intent but the government presented recordings between Rahman and a victim that contradicts this claim. This was lawfully sufficient evidence to convict Rahman.

Rahman also claimed that there is no evidence that he fraudulently solicited or recruited individuals outside of the United States, but the jurors needed only to prove he caused fraudulent recruitment and a testimony from

See RAHMAN'S on Page 4

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Non-NMD surviving spouse gets half of property

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued an order giving a non-Northern Marianas Descent half of the property left by his deceased spouse, who was an NMD.

Elpidia Dela Cruz Nauta, an NMD, died without a will. She was married to William Sr. and had three sons, William Jr., Kenneth, and John. Questions regarding how Nauta's estate should be distributed centered on two properties on Saipan and one in Long Beach, California

Under Article XII of the CNMI Constitution, only persons who can trace their ancestry to the Northern Mariana Islands are eligible to own land outright in the CNMI. Persons who are not NMD, such as Nauta's husband, William Sr., are at most eligible to hold 55-year leaseholds.

Citing two statutes and a case precedent, Camacho last Dec. 1 ordered that the first Saipan property, located in Koblerville, be divided with half going to Nauta's husband, either for the remainder of his life or for a maximum of 55 years, and the other half being divided equally among her three sons.

When William Sr. dies, the whole property will belong to the three sons in equal portions.

Distribution of the second Saipan property in Chalan Piao (composed of two adjacent properties) was further complicated when the survivors had authorized a third party, Dr. Ignacio T. Dela Cruz, to negotiate a lease of the property. This lease produced revenue worth more

See NON-NMD on Page 4

LOTTERY

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Pomegranate Grey Goose Granita Amusee

Garlic-Herb Crusted Roast Black Mountain Prime Rib with Chestnut-Mushroom Au Jus Haricot Vert and Pearl Onion Amandine Mousseline Potatoes

Key Lime Pie with Triple Berry Coulis

Set Menu B

Pan Seared Sea Scallops on Saffron Cream with a Duo of Black and Pink Caviar Bouquet of Edible Wild Flowers

Butternut Squash with Bradley Smoked Duck and laced with Black-Truffle Sunflower Oil

Strawberry and Baby Spinach in a Parmesan cup, with Roquefort Cheese, Roasted Pecans, and Creamy Balsamic Dressing

Pomegranate Grey Goose Granita Amusee

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Govt health insurance open enrollment deadline Dec. 20

Secretary of Finance Larrisa Larson would like to remind retirees and government employees that the Government Health and Life Insurance Trust Fund (GHLI) open enrollment period is ongoing until Dec. 20.

Larson shares that the 2018 policy shows a 6-percent decrease on the employee share, an offset afforded to currently enrolled government retirees as well.

"The GHLI renewed its group health policy with Aetna International, and the new rates will be effective Jan. 1, 2018 through Dec. 31, 2018. Open enrollment is ongoing and will continue until December 20, 2017. Currently enrolled government employees and retirees may make changes to their coverage if needed during this period and those currently enrolled do not need to re-enroll," Larson said.

Larson

She added that active employees not currently covered by Aetna may apply for coverage, and retirees who previously declined enrollment when first eligible will be unable to enroll.

New retirees, however, are able to enroll within a specific time from their retirement date.

For active government contributions, an employee will pay $79.66 for high-end coverage, $25.44 for low coverage, $2.20 for basic coverage. An employee and spouse will now pay $163.30 for high coverage, $52.15 for low coverage and $4.50 for basic. An employee and their family will now pay $254.91 instead of $272.07 for high coverage, $81.40 for low, and $7.01 for basic.

For government retirees, enrollees will pay $86.30 for high coverage, $27.56 for low, $2.38 for basic. Inclusion of retiree spouses will cost $176.91 for high, $50.49 for low, and $4.88 for basic. For retirees and their family, $276.15 for high coverage, $88.18 for low, and $7.60 for basic.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres reiterated that through House Bill 19-114, the Department of Finance has been able to fully administer the government's Group Health and Life Insurance program and cut costs.

"I encourage current government employees to take advantage of the lowered health insurance policy, and I thank Department of Finance for their continued diligence in addressing the high cost of healthcare. I hope to see more participants in the government's group insurance plans especially with the decrease in premium rates. I encourage more of our government employees and retirees to take advantage of this," Torres said.

Pacific Insurance Underwriters is the resident general agent for Aetna in the Commonwealth and will assist during the open enrollment. For more information, call 664-1100. ***(PR)***

Christmas lights go up along Beach Road

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Christmas is truly in the air and the lighted Christmas sculptures and decorations along the stretch of Beach Road from Garapan all the way to San Antonio adds to making the season brighter and more memorable.

The Marianas Visitors Authority as part of its beautification program especially this time of the year, did not miss the opportunity to install Christmas lights along Beach Road intended to reinforce other MVA Christmas activities such as Christmas in the Marianas at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

"MVA works hard to beautify our islands. We ask for everyone's continued support of our efforts to promote and market the CNMI to the world," said Chris Concepcion, MVA managing director.

"The light installation began the last week of November. They are on from approximately 6pm to 6am daily," he added.

Cases of electric wire theft in the past while the Christmas display is ongoing did not discourage MVA from proceeding with the installation of the lighted Christmas sculptures and decorations.

Concepcion

"We did not install additional security measures as that would've drove costs way up. We expect our partners at Department of Public Safety and other enforcement agencies to do their part to prevent crime from taking place," Concepcion said.

"We also expect our community to be on the lookout and ensure we take care of the lights so everyone enjoys them, residents and visitors. It's a pity to think that whenever we install or create new attractions we must also consider security measures to protect these sites. I'm sure we'll get through this as we always do," Concepcion added.

Concepcion said that the Christmas spirit that the MVA is promoting not only starts and end on Beach Road but in other parts of the island as well.

"We've installed brand new giant sculptures at Paseo de Marianas, including a giant gift box, giant Christmas ornament, giant Christmas tree and overhead lighting throughout PDM. We have light displays on each power pole from Garapan Fire Station to Garapan Fishing Base," he said.

"Aside from the Christmas lighting sculptures all along Beach Road from Garapan to Chalan Piao and San Antonio, we participated in the First Lady's Christmas Village in Susupe," he added.

Concepcion said that as 2017 comes to an end the community and tourists can expect better programs and events from MVA in 2018.

"This year we saw many new sporting and community events. We hope for 2018 to be even better. As we weather the uncertainty surrounding workforce and other issues, we are grateful to the community for embracing tourism as the main industry in our Commonwealth," he said

"The work the MVA does benefits everyone. Let's continue our partnership as we bid 2017 adieu and welcome 2018," he added.

CHANGE

From Page 1

mayor's position if the current mayor is unable to serve or passes away with less than half of the term remaining and after garnering the consent and confirmation of the Senate.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) opted to further amend the bill by adding a provision that sets a timeframe for the mayoral successor. The amendment provides that if S.B. 20-79 is passed into law, the governor is given 15 days to appoint a nominee while the Senate is given 30 days upon the governor's appointment to act on it. Should the Senate opt to not act on the appointment after 30 days, the provision provides that the governor's appointment would be deemed confirmed.

When S.B. 20-79 was first introduced in a previous Senate session, Mangloña requested that the public hearing be first conducted as well. During the discussions in the passage of the bill, Mangloña said he remains "concerned" about how future officials would perceive the bill.

S.B. 20-79 was also not referred to a committee after its introduction last Nov. 21, 2017.

"We might be creating a bigger mess," said Mangloña, adding that he was certain there would be more talks on S.B. 20-79 if it gets enacted.

Santos, who opted to abstain on the bill, said that although the intent of the bill brought up valid points on both sides, the "sentiments of [Rota] have its own competing influence."

"Since there are both legitimate arguments on both sides of the equilibrium, I am going to abstain on the legislation," she said.

Hofschneider, who was for the bill, stated that he had the "primary duty to provide stability" for the people of Tinian.

"It is our primary mandate to do our best to stabilize the community as much as possible. I understand that not all purpose and findings can be agreed by one another; that is part of being in a democratic form of government," he said.

"The CNMI Constitution provided [the Legislature] to look at issues that may happen," he said before recalling the recent passing of late Northern Islands mayor Jerome Aldan.

A statement from Sen. Borja's office stated that the intent of the bill was to provide for job security of previous employees under the late Aldan. The employees reportedly lost their jobs as NI Mayor Vicente C. Santos took over.

Hofschneider said that no matter how others perceive the bill, whether political or not, he said he had a "responsibility to provide stability for the people I represent—Tinian—and provide them comfort in the event that the mayor passes with more than half or less than half of the term remaining, there is a guiding principle as far as this is concerned."

According to author Borja, the intent of the bill was to protect the employees of the mayor's office and municipalities in case "something happens to the mayor."

With the Senate passing S.B. 20-79, he was grateful to the members that supported it.

"I'm happy [the bill] passed the Senate. That is the first step; we'll see what will happen," said Borja.

When asked why public hearings to gather comments on the bill were not conducted, Borja said public hearings on bills remained a prerogative of the Legislature.

Having been introduced just late November 2017 and now heading to the House of Representatives for review and action mid-December 2017, *Saipan Tribune* asked why the bill was passed with a sense of urgency.

Borja replied, "We cannot foresee what the future entails, so I am more comfortable that the bill is in place. Whatever happens–the mayor resigns or passes away–it doesn't matter if it's from Tinian or Rota. Part of being in the Legislature is [amending and creating] laws."

Alongside the introduction of the bill, rumors of Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas resigning as mayor circulated. Although he denied the rumors after *Saipan Tribune* previously reached out to him, he said he supported "a move by the Legislature to amend the law regarding mayor vacancies."

OPERATION

From Page 1

the general public may discharge firearms.

Shooting ranges according to the same law on the other hand, refers to a major development with a minimum capital investment of $250,000. Like a shooting gallery, shooting ranges also allows the general public to discharge firearms however additional amenities such as restaurants, shops, recreational facilities, and whatnot are also included within the premises.

Shooting ranges also satisfies requirements to host major international shooting competition in accordance to the International Shooting Sport Federation, which supervises sport-shooting competitions.

The legislation was authored by Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and is co-sponsored by Reps. Francisco C. Aguon (R-Saipan), Blas Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan), Donald Barcinas (R-Saipan), Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and minority leader Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan).

NON-NMD

From Page 3

than $650,000.

As written, the lease distributed the proceeds equally in 25 percent shares to each of the four survivors. While son Kenneth argued that William Sr., lacking NMD status, was not eligible to inherit any of the proceeds, William Sr. countered that he was entitled to half.

Ultimately, Camacho decided that Dela Cruz exceeded the scope of his authority when he signed the lease on behalf of the three sons, meaning the lease remains unsigned. It is unclear, at this point, where this leaves the disposition of the Chalan Piao properties.

Camacho ordered that the property in California is not subject to Article XII, and therefore should be shared equally by William Sr. and son Kenneth. In another ruling, Camacho stated that there was no advancement on Kenneth's interest in the Long Beach property and does not affect the distribution of the Saipan properties.

RAHMAN'S

From Page 2

Rahman's co-defendant Zeaur Rahman Dalu proved that Rahman was guilty beyond reasonable doubt of being the cause of fraudulent recruitment.

Rahman also claims that during closing, the government gave two improper statements in regards to prosecutor's commentary about the defense calling on witnesses and references to the children of the defendants, but federal laws states," a criminal conviction is not to be lightly overturned on the basis of a prosecutor's comments standing alone,"

According to federal law, a court cannot reverse a jury's decision unless there is supporting evidence that proves the convicted individual innocent beyond reasonable doubt.

Federal law also allows a court to grant a new trial if the interests of justice so requires and because Rahman is requesting for a new trial on the grounds of insufficient evidence and prosecution errors, the court found neither allegations enough to grant the request for a new trial.

Police: Woman reported missing Wednesday found

Laguimon

A woman reported missing Wednesday morning by her husband was found yesterday and confirmed safe by the Department of Public Safety.

On Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017, at approximately 2:30pm, police officers responded to a missing person report. Forty-three-year-old Jacqueline Laguimon was reported missing by her husband Juan Carlos.

"We had a little argument, she walked away and didn't come home. I got worried that I called the police," Carlos said.

According to DPS public information officer Jacqueline Rae Shepard, Laguimon contacted DPS yesterday and confirmed that she is safe.

Carlos said he tried to reach out to Laguimon via facebook and got a response.

"When she responded, I told her I have good intentions, advised her to stop this drama, and call the police. That's what she did and she was declared safe," he said.

"She is still not home yet but I know that she is okay," Carlos said. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

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Kilili's work on Palau Compact pays off

WASHINGTON, D.C.—President Trump signed the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act yesterday, including an extension of the Compact of Free Association with the Republic of Palau. Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) has been working for several years to get the 15-year extension enacted into law. It was originally negotiated by the U.S. and Palau in 2010, but never formally approved.

"Because of the strategic importance of Palau to the security of all of us in the Western Pacific, I have worked hard to win approval of the extension of the Compact of Free Association," Sablan said. "Peace and stability are the underpinnings for the economic health of our region.

"And because I am the only Micronesian in the U.S. Congress, I also feel a special responsibility to help people throughout the island Pacific, whenever I can."

The annual Defense bill emerged as a route to approval of the Compact in 2016. Sablan had introduced legislation approving the Compact and authorizing multi-year funding. He arranged hearings for his bill before House Foreign Affairs and Natural Resources subcommittees. Then, working with Pacific representatives Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam) and Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawai'i), he was able to win the support of the Defense Department for inclusion of the Compact approval in the 2017 Defense bill.

Although that effort was not successful, Sablan again introduced Compact legislation this year, again got a hearing on the bill, and won approval in the House Natural Resources Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah). Bishop is also a member of the House Armed Services Committee, which writes the annual Defense authorization.

"Focusing on Compact approval as a matter of strategic importance to the United States was key, I think, to getting it through Congress and signed into law today," Sablan commented.

"Although Congress has appropriated the funding amounts negotiated with Palau year-after-year, we were not giving Palau the assurance of long-term commitment that approval of the Compact provides.

"From Palau's point of view—and to other nations in the Pacific region—it seemed as though America was not good for its word. America could not be trusted.

"That is no way for our nation to maintain influence in what is becoming every day a more strategically important—and contested—area of the world," Sablan said. "But today we showed America is committed to the Pacific." ***(PR)***

All set for Paskong Pinoy this Sunday

The United Filipino Organization will be hosting its annual Paskong Pinoy (Filipino Christmas) festival on Sunday and is inviting community members to stop by and join in the festivities.

According to UFO president Marlon Regaton, the festivities will start at 10am and will end at 9pm. The event will be held at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Regaton said the festivities will kick off with a live band performance in the morning and the opening program will start at 1pm.

After the opening program, performances from participating school choral groups will follow.

There will also be performances from individual performers and dance groups, like the SMADS and Studio 29-11, during the festivities.

The Batang Pinoy Choir will also perform medleys throughout the day and throughout the night.

Evening entertainment includes the "Kwarta sa Kahon" game of fortune segment, a gift giving activity for the first 100 children, an on-the-spot drawing contest for the children, and various games for the adults.

There will also be numerous food and non-food vendors present during the event.

The UFO is inviting the general public to partake in the organization's festivities. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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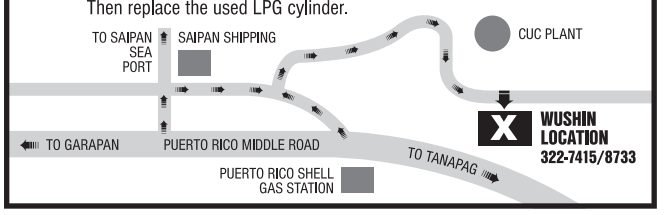

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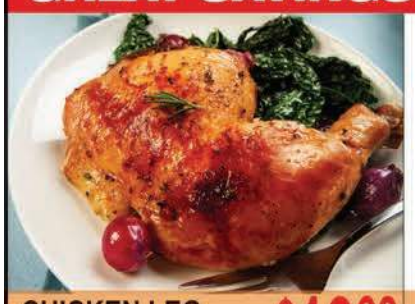

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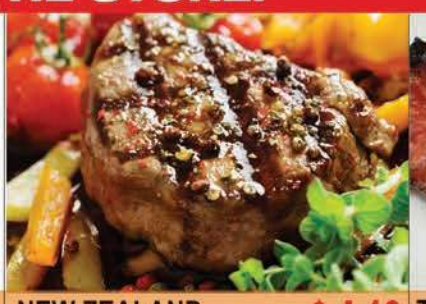

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House supports Tydingco-Gatewood's renomination

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives last Monday unanimously supported the appointment of a Guam District Court chief judge.

Having already served her first 10 terms, District Court of Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood awaits U.S. Senate action on her reappointment. First appointed during the tenure of past U.S. president George W. Bush in 2006, Tydincgo-Gatewood was nominated her for a second term by former U.S. president Barack Obama in May 2016.

During a session last Monday, the House unanimously adopted Rep. Alice Igitol's (R-Saipan) House Resolution 20-17, which was in support of Tydingco-Gatewood's nomination.

Passing the House with a vote of 18-0, only Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) was absent from the session.

In a statement, Igitol specified that before she intended to author the resolution in support of Tydingco-Gatewood's renomination, she "considered some of the possible concerns."

Despite there being individuals in the CNMI that qualifies to be appointed as trustee, she said she supported Tydingco-Gatewood because "we are… responsible in creating the current dilemma of the Settlement Fund."

"We are too politically influenced on many, if not all issues reference the public purposes," she firmly said during the session.

According to Igitol, Tydingco-Gatewood did good by appointing a "non-CNMI individual" as Settlement Fund Trustee.

"First and foremost, she has to make sure that political influence on matters regarding the Settlement Fund does not happen," she said. "… The retirees pension are well protected as we are now experiencing," Igitol said, adding that Public Law 20-10 was an example of a protection of the Settlement Fund.

P.L. 20-10 set aside funding obtained specifically from the Casino-Generated Gross Revenue Tax into special fund that would only be used to fund 25 percent of retiree pensions.

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Lawmaker urges public to put down phones while driving

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) recommends that the public let go of their mobile devices while driving.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, the House of Representatives minority leader said in the aftermath of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres vetoing his House Bill 20-8, HS1, SD1, which banned the use of cellular phones while operating a motor vehicle, that the governor brought up "good points."

"[Torres] did bring up some good points and when it comes to the law, language is very important," he said, adding that there was a "big difference between 'may' and 'shall.'"

"If definitions are not clearly defined in the law, it is up for challenge."

Villagomez said that a similar bill was introduced during the 19th Legislature and was instantly killed at the committee level, however despite having his bill vetoed, the message of practicing safety on the road remains.

In talks of a reintroduction, Villagomez responded that Torres' recommendations would be taken seriously and that the bill "may have to be looked at again just to make sure that we are all in line."

In H.B. 20-08's transmittal letter dated Nov. 22, 2017, Torres vetoed the bill in its entirety citing the need for revisiting the bill's "restrictive language."

He said that the lack of considering the inclusion of a provision in the bill that exempts emergency medical responders on official duty was a primary reason.

"This express exemption is necessary for the purpose of granting our medical responders with the tools they need to effectively carry out their duties," Torres wrote in the letter.

Torres also believed that using the terms "cellular/mobile telephones narrowly describes" a huge selection of mobile gadgets that include other means of inputting text or calling, such as tablets.

"The Legislature should also consider expanding the restricted use of 'cellular/mobile telephones' to include the other uses of these devices along with talking and texting, such as taking photos, snapchatting, reading or reviewing emails and electronic documents, or even using Facebook, which are all features widely used on mobile devices today."

According to Torres, although public safety is an "important government objective," he stands firm in advising the Legislature to re-discuss the language of the H.B. 20-8.

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Kilili: $125K agricultural grant for NMC

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) announced yesterday that Northern Marianas College received a federal grant of $124,827 to develop distance learning courses in food and agriculture science.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Distance Learning Grant will allow NMC to expand its online offerings to include courses in food and agricultural science. In the fall of 2018, NMC will begin offering these types of courses for the first time in its history.

"NMC continues to expand its reach to provide quality education to students in the Northern Marianas," said Sablan. "By expanding online courses to food and agricultural sciences, NMC will be able to provide wider educational opportunities to its students and may spark interest in further career-related study in this area."

According to NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, "Because of the flexibility that online courses offer to students pursuing their college degree, Northern Marianas College has been working to grow the number of courses that can be accessed from home or from any other place with internet connectivity.

"We are extremely grateful that the NIFA grant will allow the College to expand its online offerings to include food and agricultural science courses so that career and training opportunities in these areas can also grow," Fernandez said.

The online courses will be available to students on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The two-year grant provides funding for course development, recruitment, and hiring of instructors, staff training, and procurement of necessary supplies, including laboratory kits for every student who registers and enrolls in an online food and agricultural science course.

The NMC grant is one of a series made to the Insular Areas to strengthen agricultural education. NIFA executive director Sonny Ramaswamy said that, "…these programs will help insular areas institutions meet their unique needs. NIFA Investments are helping to increase the number and diversity of students who will pursue food and agricultural science careers."

"I salute NMC on securing additional federal funding to further their educational mission and will diversify their course offerings to students," Sablan said. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Christmas in The Marianas

Christmas in The Marianas will be held every Saturday in December from 5pm to 9pm at Paseo de Marianas. The event schedule includes:

■ On Dec. 16: Parade of Floats at 5:45pm from Garapan Fishing Base on Beach Road to American Memorial Park, a costume show, and awards presentation.

■ Dec. 23: Saipan Awaodori, Li'l Hands School of Music, Hopwood Middle School, Saipan Music & Dance Studio, Alana'ia, FESTPAC Warriors (interested musicians and performers may contact MVA Community Projects Specialist Lynn Sablan at 664-3200/01).

■ Dec. 30: Japanese Mochitsuki Festival, featuring the pounding of rice to make "mochi," a traditional event in preparation for the new year and Saipan Awaodori Team, Teul Belau Dancers, 29:11:00 and FESTPAC Warriors.

For more information, visit the Marianas Visitors Authority website at www.mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Free health screening on Sunday

There will be a free health screening organized by U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance Marianas chapter (CNMI and Guam), National Youth Movement for the West Philippine Sea (NYMWPS) Marianas chapter, BAYANi- Bayan Bago Sarili, National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) Marianas chapter (CNMI and Guam) and Asian Community of the CNMI (ACC) sponsored by its chairperson, Dr. Celia Lamkin and Ronald Lamkin, on Sunday, Dec. 17, from 8am to 11am, at San Antonio Parish Social Hall, San Antonio, Saipan, CNMI.

Registration starts at 7:30am.

There will be free blood pressure measurements, blood sugar tests, weight and height determination, and Body Mass Index (BMI).

Those who would avail the blood sugar tests are advised to do fasting preferably 12 hours or two hours prior to the actual testing.

Health-related brochures on the prevention of hypertension, stroke, heart attack, asthma, obesity, high cholesterol/triglycerides, diabetes, among others, will be distributed.

Free refreshments will be served.

The groups headed by Dr. Lamkin have been providing free health screening services for the past seven years for health and wellness of the community members of Saipan.

The public is welcome regardless of ethnicity, nationality, citizenship, status, religion, age, and citizenship. ***(PR)***

USS *Key West* to return to Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS *Key West* (SSN 722) is scheduled to return to its homeport of Guam at 1 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15, following a four month forward operating period to the Western Pacific.

Members of the media interested in covering the homecoming should contact Commander, Submarine Squadron 15 Public Affairs no later than Friday, Dec. 15, 2017 at 9am. ***(PR)***

Water outage today in Kagman

There will be a water service interruption today, Dec. 15, in Kagman, from 9am to 1pm to repair a water leak between JCT Market and the KG2 well. This will take approximately four hours to complete. The outage will affect customers residing along the KG131 well/chlorine station from Kagman Road, Santa Soledad Church, up to the Kumoi booster station and residents near the Juvenile Detention Center to Laulau. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page. ***(CUC)***

RCUOG meeting today

The regular meeting of the Research Corporation of the University of Guam will be held today, Dec. 15, at 2:30pm in the president's conference room, executive offices, on the second floor of the Jesus S. and Eugenia A. Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building. RCUOG complies with Guam Public Law 24-109 with reference to the provisions and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. For assistance contact Joseph Gumataotao, UOG EEO Office, Room 106, Iya Hami, at 735-2244 or (TTY) 735-2243. ***(PR)***

Landfill, transfer station closed on Sat.

On Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017, both the Lower Base transfer station and the Marpi landfill waste disposal facilities will be closed at 3pm in preparation for the Department of Public Works' annual Christmas party. ***(PR)***

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EDITORIAL

A tyke's newest toy: Facebook

Milestones when your child reaches age 6: Her first baby tooth comes out. He wobbles through his first bike ride. She can count to 100, and his vocabulary tops 5,000 words. Now there's a new rite of passage — that first Facebook chat.

Yes, Facebook has made it possible. Mark Zuckerberg's social media giant has unveiled a Messenger Kids app that allows children under 13 and as young as 6 to text, video chat and send photos. Parents' approval is required, and parents also must sign off on every new person added to their child's contact list. Parents, and not their children, create the account. Kids 13 and older are allowed to use Facebook as any adult does.

Facebook says kids are spending more time on smartphones and tablets and their app offers a controlled environment to connect with relatives and friends. "Right now for kids, the time they spend on devices is very passive," David Marcus, vice president of messaging products at Facebook, told The New York Times. The app comes with Snapchat-style filters such as playful masks that can be applied to photos kids send. Facebook also stresses that Messenger Kids will be ad-free.

Alas, the winds of change have turned into gales. For communication and safety reasons, it's common now for children under 13 to have smartphones. Preteens text and call each other, they Snapchat one another, they freely exchange Instagram images. It's a social media world.

But that's where parental stewardship, and common sense, come into play. A kid who's 11 or 12 probably can find some utility in Messenger Kids. But a child who's 6 or 7? At 6, most kids are still honing the rough edges of their burgeoning language skills. And 6 or 7 seems young for a kid to wade into the dicey, you-can't-take-it-back nature of social media.

Facebook says its goal is not to turn today's tykes into tomorrow's customers. Yet the Messenger Kids' privacy policy lays out the raft of data Facebook will be collecting on children. Aside from their names, it includes the texts, videos and audio they send, information on whom they interact with, data on which of the app's bells and whistles they use, and how long they use them. The policy also states that Facebook reserves the right to share information collected in the Messenger Kids app with other Facebook services.

With all of that data collection, some parents will wonder whether Facebook is grooming future users. "Why should parents simply trust that Facebook is acting in the best interest of children?" James Steyer, chief executive of Common Sense Media, told the Times.

Social media is here to stay. But it's incumbent on parents to keep an eagle eye on their kids' social media use and head off online overindulgence at the expense of in-the-flesh interaction with real people in the real world.

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Let's clear the air

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I appreciate that the members of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. took the time to meet with me during their lobbying trip to Washington. It is regrettable that NMBAC came away from our meeting disappointed. Unfortunately, I cannot please everybody. But I do try to listen to the diverse and often conflicting voices that make up our community, many of which claim to speak in the best interests of all the people of the Marianas, and some of which sometimes say they want one thing and then change their minds later. It's not easy, but I signed on to work for the people of the Marianas.

NMBAC, as I understand it, is the lobbying arm of the Governor's Strategic Economic Development Council. They came to Washington to advocate for their legislative proposals—a lengthy list of requests. Some of their requests I have already gotten done.

For example, they asked to bar construction workers from the CW program—that was accomplished with the enactment of H.R. 339, the Northern Marianas Economic Expansion Act, thanks in large part to the support of the governor and the business community. They also asked for a report from the Government Accountability Office on the Marianas' economic prospects, including the impacts of ending the Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker (CW) program. I requested that report last year, and GAO released the results of their study in May this year.

Some of NMBAC's requests, however, will be difficult to sell in this anti-foreign worker, Republican administration and Congress. I have explained this reality to NMBAC repeatedly. For example, increasing the CW cap to 18,000 (nearly doubling the number currently in effect) will be a very heavy lift, especially given the relatively high number of unemployed U.S. citizens and residents according to the Commonwealth government's own data, and the Commonwealth government's record of waiving its own requirements for U.S. hires. Furthermore, splitting the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program, although desired by certain business interests in the Marianas, has nothing to do with an extension of the transition program, and will only distract from, and may even undermine, that effort. I have said this many times—in meetings with NMBAC, their individual members, and members from other sectors of the community. Yet NMBAC is still pushing for visa waiver bifurcation.

I want to be very clear that NMBAC is not the only group I have met with to discuss labor issues. Over the last two years alone, I have also met with the governor and his staff, the Governor's Strategic Economic Development Council, local legislators, mayors, the Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Society of Human Resource Management, small business owners who do not participate in any associations, U.S. workers and their advocates, CW workers and their advocates, lawyers, journalists, health care professionals, social workers, law enforcement officers, thought leaders, educators, and students.

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Sablan is the CNMI Delegate to U.S. Congress.

It is my job as delegate to consult with the people I represent, to sort through their competing interests and concerns, to weigh the available data and facts on the ground, and to make the best decision that I can, based on all of these factors, about the way forward. It is also my job to take the best available information that I have to make our case in Washington, and work with my congressional colleagues to figure out what's possible, what can be achieved to improve the lives of the people I represent.

In Congress, we legislate. And in developing legislation, we negotiate and compromise. That's the nature of the work. Because for a measure to pass, we must have the support of at least 218 members of the House and a minimum of 51 Senators, whose priorities and concerns may not be in line with our own. And because each senator can block movement on a bill, the support of key senators is critical to every legislative effort.

As I have said before in many meetings, press conferences, and news releases, I am now part of a bipartisan, bicameral working group that is developing legislation to carry the Marianas beyond 2019, when the current transition program expires. The working group is led by Senator Lisa Murkowski, who chairs the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, which has jurisdiction over the insular areas. The group is still agreeing on the limits that will shape this legislation.

I can say at this time that my priorities are two-fold: 1) to ensure that there is sufficient labor available to keep the Marianas economy moving forward; and 2) to ensure that the number of U.S. workers continue to increase over time. We have made some progress in recruiting, training, and hiring U.S. workers these past nine years since federal immigration law was extended to the Marianas, but as we know, as the data show, we still have a long way to go.

As I tried to explain to NMBAC at my meeting on Monday,

See LET'S on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Bonk!

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

This week I heard a number of radio spots featuring various experts offering predictions for 2018.

I'll admit that I don't get as excited about predictions as I used to. The more gray hair I get, the more I realize the limitations of predictions and how our fates are often driven by events that either are, or at least might as well be, random.

With that in mind I've seen that being prudent about the future, and being right about the future, aren't necessarily the same thing.

For example, I used to analyze debt derivatives for a company that hedged much of its exposure to interest rate changes. The company had layers of debt that were initially issued with floating rates. The essence of the gig was that the company economists (there were two of us) had no idea where interest rates were headed, and we were also vulnerable to the risks of rising rates.

In essence, as we devised hedging strategies, we weren't paid to predict, at least in the soothsayer manner that people often associate with economists. By contrast, we were paid, in a sense, to un-predict.

We knew how to not know. In fact, knowing how to not know is the most important thing I know.

In normal life, but on a vastly more simplified scale, we do the same thing when we buy insurance. Since we can't predict the future, we pay a premium to mitigate (to some extent) the downside of unfavorable events.

And, also back in normal life, I think it's easy for us to worry about events and forecasts to a degree that exceeds our ability to act on them. Listening to predictions can give us a sense of engagement in the bigger picture, which, of course, is natural. Conjecture about worldly events seems like a worldly science, but is this always the art of worldly wisdom?

If somebody with a crystal ball told you (correctly, somehow) that some important nation's (pick your favorite important nation) Gross Domestic Product was, say, going to shoot up by 12 percent, or fall by 12 percent (take your pick; up or down), in 2018, what could you really do about it? As dramatic as those moves would be in the economics context, there's not much that most folks could really do.

After all, either way, the rent is still due.

And the car needs tires. You're wondering if you can get away with buying two right now and getting the other two in a month or so. And, for that matter, you're wondering if Saipan is paved with sandpaper because it sure grinds down your rubber.

Oh, and, don't forget, you've got a 2:30 dental appointment to keep.

That's how life goes. As John Lennon famously observed, "Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans."

I'd offer a corollary, "Life is what bonks you on the head when you're reading forecasts that have nothing to do with what bonked you."

Think about the worst things that have ever happened to you. I'll be that many, even most, came from out of the blue. Take a tally. Have your buddies do the same. What do you come up with?

This would make a good happy hour discussion, espeically if the alternative is hearing you brag about all the cool holiday presents you've been buying. Me, I haven't come up with much this year and I'm sick of thinking about it.

But last week I did come up with one suggestion, a book. *It's The Dancing Wu Li Masters: An Overview of the New Physics*, by Gary Zukav.

If you like to contemplate randomness this book looks at it from the persepctive of quantum mechanics.

In that realm the behavior of sub-atomic particles is downright spooky. In some cases they seem to communicate with each other and array themselves based on "probability waves." The world of cause and effect, of what we see and what we don't see, of what we know and what we don't know, of what's really random and what just looks that way, well, it's engrossing. Nature, it seems, doesn't follow human logic.

And thus comes the big question. It applies to the smallest sub-atomic particles, the biggest economies, the most cordial of newspaper columnists, and the warmest of islands: Do we see the world as it really is, or is our perspective so limited that we're basically clueless?

With every passing year, I'm more convinced that the answer is "bonk."

LET'S

From Page 14

I am not at liberty to disclose the details of working group conversations that are, at this point, still preliminary, sensitive, and confidential. Building trusting relationships is critical to getting anything done in Congress. Everything I have been able to accomplish in Congress—from labor legislation to boosting funding for education, health care, infrastructure, and food assistance—has been through the strong relationships of trust that I have built on both sides of the aisle these past nine years.

I also explained that I have asked that the working group include the governor in these talks. When the chair decides to issue that invitation is not my call, but I understand the governor's legislative proposal was transmitted to the chair some time ago.

I recognize and understand the anxiety in our community about the future, and the need for transparency about the work underway in Washington. I am doing my best to reach out to constituents across our community to make sure that I am hearing a broad range of perspectives. I am pushing to include the governor in the working group. When legislation is introduced, I want to assure the people I represent that there will be a public hearing and ample opportunity for comment. In the meantime, although I regret that NMBAC was not happy after their meeting with me this week, I will continue to welcome their feedback, as I welcome feedback from all constituents about the work I am doing for them.

Sablan is the CNMI Delegate to U.S. Congress.

Beware: Paper rich firms

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Alarming the number of paper rich millionaires and billionaires in Hong Kong coming from Mainland China making the news. An online news outfit from Hong Kong blares the headline, "HK paper billionaires exposed."

It's a very alarming news story that asserted that one of the firms listed as paper rich is here in the NMI. How come nobody caught this initially or is the new fad pocketing goodies from a sugar daddy easier and more profitable than sticking to fiduciary duty?

It involves a scheme that inflates, on paper, the stocks of the firm that is basically zero. In other words, if the firm is asked to make a million dollar payment it can't do so because that money isn't in its bank account. It doesn't exist!

The NMI has been invaded with firms from China that are only paper rich. It's an issue that can't be ignored for it may mean the financial or investment demise of the islands. We must demand for real financial wherewithal not the dreamed up scheme where some of these sleek peeps are only paper rich.

Imagine building upon a reputation as the venue for paper rich scammers. Out the window goes the credibility of the NMI as a good investment venue.

Mea Culpa: U.S. Congress isn't likely to listen to our plea for extension of the CW program, according to former Governor Juan N. Babauta in a radio appearance recently. "This should have been done two years ago" and not at the 11th hour, he pointed out.

Babauta recommended change of the current law that grants administrative authority to the departments of homeland security and labor. This permits for meaningful negotiations over the difficult route of policy extension with U.S. Congress that requires approval from both chambers.

Ooops! Now, isn't it true that the NMI has a 21-percent unemployment rate of indigenous U.S. citizens? So why would anyone recommend perpetuating unemployment for our people? Something's amiss here! The biz community must do better to erase the anomaly in the 21 percent unemployment rate here.

Moreover, the country is suffering from its problematic chain migration and visa lottery system now in place. Trump is set to kill both that effectively shuts the door for foreigners. How then do we fit our issue, legitimate as it may be, amidst such troubling national concern? Any clue what national policy formulation entails?

Shameful: It goes to show that the administration isn't necessarily adept to seeing pending issues that have huge implications, e.g., failing fiduciary duty exacerbates huge decline in the economy beyond comprehension. Isn't transition to U.S. immigration available since 2008 under P.L. 110-229? Someone should be tasked to handle this and other related issues so the governor knows what to expect when he takes his D.C. and Boise junkets every other full moon.

Recent appearance before a U.S. Senate subcommittee not knowing the unemployment rate here is woefully humiliating! It doesn't lend to credibility of what we now seek from U.S. Congress. Sen. Arnie Palacios was given the information but never bothered. So he flew all the way back home to ask for the same information, again! Perhaps the guy isn't tech-native but relative!

Babauta hinted that the folks on the hill have been sleeping on the wheels. Sorry, Governor Babauta, but Da guys have been "snoozing" not sleeping. Eh, after a heavy bone-soup lunch with tons of rice and finadeni it's one perfect recipe to snooze off into the sunset. And they did!

Disappointing: We could call 2017 "The 80 Percent Year!" Yep! There are resounding decibels of dysfunction all over the hill. It's almost completely disorienting. Raffy and Biktot took turns junketing at taxpayers' expense while legislators fine-tune their snooze. They've got it down to an art: drooling!

Bad year for these isles that included ignoring federal laws on transition into U.S. Immigration. Woe! We tried the old mea culpa but exhausted our supply. Sad.

Kinubre: I tautau-ta ma-usune mauleg na sensian inana`e pot para umakubre haye numesessita mas ayudu. Estague` na eskalera `nai masotta i publiku ginen diskuidun mansabiun I Deni`. Kumu machule` pagamientun 80 pot sientu de hemunos haf` para u padese i tautau siha gi señgsoñg. Dios mihu!

Mauleg na guaha ayudun food stamps para ayu siha na familia i ti fumatitinas disiente na moneda gi mes. Konsidera haf` para umapadese `an taya` nu este na ayudun federat. Mauleg sa` ha choneg si Kilili` ma-inklusun iya Marianas gi parehu na apas ayudu taimanu manmanana`e iya America.

Propiu na ta atan yan ta kopbla kada unu haf` bidaña gi ma-adelantan ha`anen tautau siha. Kase kanaha` todu siempre u fan fontun guine na patte.

Kuestion: I amighu Magoo ha sentuñgu` humoñu` batuneshu piot ya kulan appenas sitbesa. Hu fahane pot para u lipague` i prohimu. Impottante para guahu humuñgog haf` sentimentun tautau siha gi señgsoñg.

Sige fumofu pot planun hatsadan apas hospitat yan presiun nesessidat siha `nai gi mismu sakudida i sueddu tatnai ha muebague` hulu`. Komprendiyun na sentimentu ginen man-otdinariu ni pumadedese diskuidun mansabiun I Deni`.

Ha kuestiona kau ti marepapara ni mansabiu haf` pinadesen i tautau siha gi señgsoñg. Tihu oppe pot para bai li`e haf` kinemprendeña. Ha mensiona dispues na mampos megai promesan gueku. Hu appunta huyuñg na mampos man-chanseru kulan mohon asuntun pretendiente.

Hu komprende ayu na sentimentu pot megai familia pumadedese makat na mattiru pot tinahuñg salape` gi monedan niha. I asuntu makat pot rason na ha nesessita kabales na adelantun ekonomia para u hatsa todu bote ti puettu. Taigue este na fuetsan ekonomia pa`gu. Gueku!

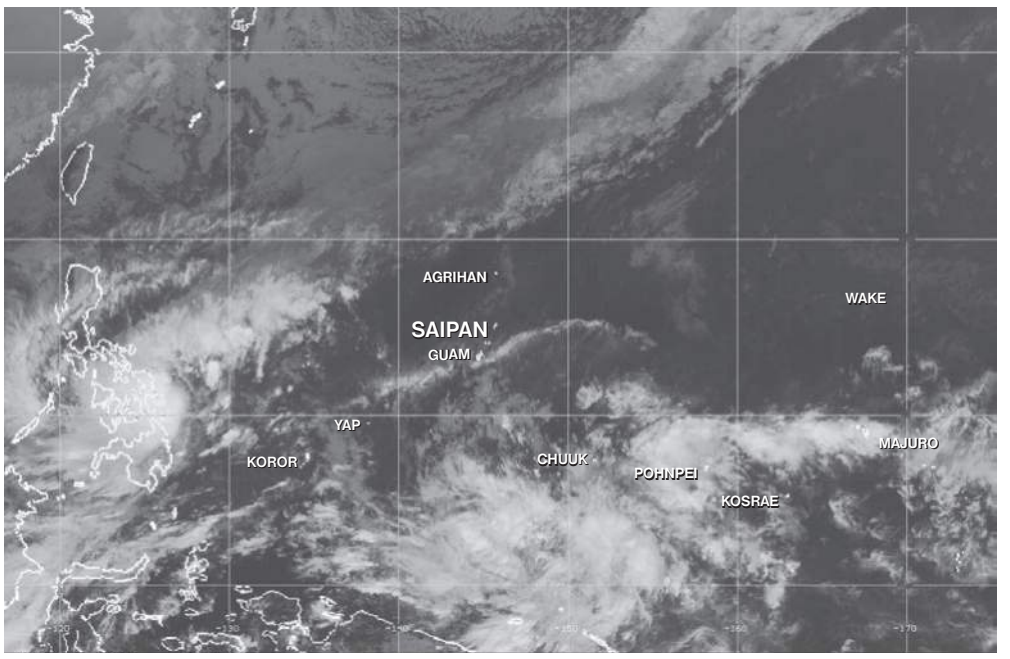
Sunidu: Gi un` dinaña` familia, un` ñietu yan ñieta makanta un` sunidu pot I Mauleg Na Lina`la` (Kailey yan Beaver). I kanta ha kuestiona kau ti inipos mana`iña ni tiha mirese yan mañge` guma` familia ni kumonduse-gue` halum dispues de minachum atdau. Para todu i mattiru ma-agradese I Mauleg Na Lina`la` niha. Esta hana` magemyu` i ma-agradese minapot mañainan niha piot i trinañkilu gima` familia.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:00 AM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A relatively dry trade-wind regime will continue over the Marianas through Saturday. At that time, winds will start to build and could reach small craft advisory Monday. This will be due to a tropical disturbance passing to our south. Winds are not expected to increase much beyond small craft advisory criteria because the circulation will be passing near or perhaps even south of Yap. This means the impact here in the Marianas will be limited.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 64°
Beijing	Sunny	36° / 18°
Hong Kong	Cloudy	68° / 55°
Honolulu	Showers	76° / 67°
London	Partly Cloudy	39° / 32°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	79° / 51°
Manila	Showers	81° / 73°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	77° / 55°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	76° / 64°
New York	Cloudy	33° / 30°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 36°
Paris	Showers	43° / 34°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	41° / 21°
Rome	Showers	55° / 54°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	60° / 37°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	61° / 49°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	30° / 12°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	55° / 37°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	38° / 30°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:00 AM	LOW TIDE	0.06
6:37 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.61
11:50 AM	LOW TIDE	1.01
5:18 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.91

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Sunday	6:36 AM	5:49 PM
Monday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Tuesday	6:37 AM	5:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:48 am	3:42 pm	-
Saturday	4:37 am	4:24 pm	-
Sunday	5:26 am	5:08 pm	-
Monday	6:16 am	5:54 pm	-
Tuesday	7:05 am	6:41 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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Budweiser & Budlight 24 Cans Case $29.99

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Filma Oil 5L $6.99

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Pringles Superstack $1.79

Chef Boyardee Lasagna 15oz $1.39

Chef Boyardee Beefaroni 15oz $1.39

Ox & Palm Corned Beef 11.5oz $3.59

Black Label 12oz $1.89

Red Label 12oz $1.29

Libby's Vienna Sausage 4.6oz $0.59

Libby's Pumpkin 29oz $3.99 2for$7

Gold Medal Flour 5lbs $3.99 2for$7

Wonderfarm Coconut Milk 400ml $1.39

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Morton Salt 26oz $0.99

SV Vinegar White 32oz $2.29

Datu Puti Vinegar 4L $4.69 2for$8

SF Mayo 15oz $2.99

Act II Pop Corn Assorted Flavor 8.25oz $1.99 2for$3

Crisco All-Vegetable Shortening 3lbs $6.99

Ginbis Asparagus 6*27g $3.99 2for$7

Ginbis Asparagus 135g $1.79

Karamucho Chip Hot 55g $2.19 2for$4

Karamucho Stick 105g $2.99 2for$5

Kadoya Sesame Oil 56oz $14.99

Beef Jack Links 3.25oz $5.99 2for$11

Mang Tomas All Purpose 550g $1.39

Nature Valley Oats Honey Bar 1.49oz $17.99

Ajinomoto 454g $1.99

Yours Lemon Powder 5.29oz $5.79

Kimchee Base 450g $4.99

SF Olive Ripe Pitted Med 6oz $1.99

Rich-In-All Mayonnaise 1g $8.99

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SF Napkin 200ct $2.79

Members Mark Bath Tissue 9ct $6.99

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Innovation Summit offers glimpse of future of robotics

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Commerce in collaboration with the Commonwealth Development Authority initiated the first Innovation Summit last week at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

The event highlighted technology as a means of gearing up for the future.

According to Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division director David Maratita, the innovation summit is a follow through of the business summit held last September.

"One thing that Secretary Mark Rabauliman is in tuned with is how technology affects our lives here in the CNMI whether at home, school, work, the hospital, and church, technology is there," he said.

"We believe that this is a means for us to embrace and to be comfortable with technology and innovation. This also makes us informed and catch up on what's coming," Maratita added.

York Exponential CEO John McElligot is in town to create awareness of a specific kind of technology, which is robotics.

The company is based in York, Pennsylvania and is leading the way in bringing advanced technologies to businesses. They promote robotics, which they call "cobots" as a service and integrate them into a company's human workforce.

"Our company is into building the ecosystems surrounding the robots where people can understand, augment, and assemble robotics. Right now, creating awareness in the CNMI is the first phase of a much larger plan," he said

"Once that plan comes into fruition that's where we think the real opportunity will come for all the communities all across the United States," he added

McElligot brought a sample robot, an end effector which is a standard gripper fondly called "Shipley," to show the audience how it works and some were even invited to have a chance to program the robot and learn first hand.

BEA CABRERA

York Exponential CEO John McElligot demonstrates how a standard gripper robot called "Shipley" can execute a task programmed by humans at the Augment Summit 2019 an Innovation Summit held at Hibiscus Hall in Fiesta Resort & Spa last week.

"Introducing this technology to the CNMI empowers you to write your own history as we don't have to copy or play catch up with neighboring territories or the U.S. mainland. We are really trying to innovate and not imitate," he said.

"This kind of technology is still high level but the goal is to show everyone what is actually happening because most people don't have any clue how fast it is happening out there and where we actually are," he added.

According to McElligot, the robots that they are building are called "collaborative robots," they are safe to be around and easy to program.

"These aren't like power drills because when you add intelligence to something it's a very different 'animal.'"

"We are glad that there are kids here at the summit because this generation grew up watching Ironman and Avengers so they could be the super hero generation where they understand to use technology but have to use it for good," he added.

CDA office manager Oscar Camacho said ultimately, the people will be the ones who will drive technology into the island.

"If there are enough people out there that will direct the CDA to go in this direction (robotics), the board, the administration are here to listen. It is the people who would command and direct this agency to go into that direction," he said

"All that we are trying to do is to provide opportunities and give everybody a chance to see and feel what is really out there," he added.

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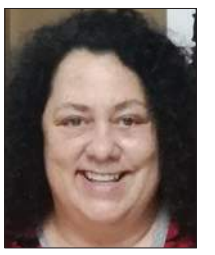
Bunts-Anderson featured on Sunday's 'Your Humanities Half-Hour'

This Sunday's "Your Humanities Half-Hour" radio program will feature Dr. Kimberly Bunts- Anderson, an associate professor in Language and Humanities at Northern Marianas College.



Bunts- Anderson

Bunts-Anderson is currently writing a book in collaboration with another NMC faculty member, Ajani Burrell, which will present a selection of writings on contemporary life in the Mariana Islands. Their work is being supported by a grant from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

Also featured are book contributors Jesse Pangelinan who will discuss his life as a Chamorro Muslim and Chenoa Bunts-Anderson who will talk about her research among people who have diabetes.

"Your Humanities Half-Hour" radio program, which airs each Sunday from 2pm to 2:30pm on Power 99, is hosted by Catherine Perry Harris. Be sure to tune in. ***(PR)***

MCS
Mount Carmel School students work on the school's garden.

MCS forms new Eco Club

This year, Mount Carmel School Knights are reinforcing their commitment to the environment with a new Eco Club. The club is partnering with business supporters and holding several events to improve the environment.

The Eco Club is advised by veteran science teacher and former teacher of the year, Luz Baldazo, who recently connected with the E-Land Group as part of its environmental outreach program. E-Land runs Kensington Hotel and Coral Ocean Point and recently paid a visit to the school.

E-Land's Eunji Ahn was very happy to work with the school and its students. As Ahn put it, "The E-Land Group is deeply interested in youth alliance activities. We want to see more of the youth develop and participate in activities that will support our beautiful island and increase awareness."

For Baldazo, E-Land's support is helping move the Eco Club's projects along. "The school already has a garden, but it hasn't been touched in a long time. Then E-Land reached out to us, offering to sponsor any projects that would benefit our environment and community. So, we started fixing the garden."

However, while E-Land agreed to support the redevelopment of the school garden, Baldazo wanted students to also take ownership of the project. As she put it, "I wanted students to help so that they are exposed to projects that not only helps the school, but also the environment."

In addition to the garden, the Eco Club is sponsoring several competitions, including a flyer contest for 3rd through 6th grade students, a brochure contest for 7th through 12th grade students, and a monthly plastic bottle competition. ***(MCS)***

MCS
E-Land Group representatives recently met with Mount Carmel School's Eco Club as the club worked on the school's garden.

MCS
E-Land Group representatives recently met with Mount Carmel School's Eco Club as the club worked on the school's garden.

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AMIM wants US Congress to exempt Marianas from guest worker cuts

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mayors all over the Marianas unanimously adopted a resolution that requested U.S Congress to consider exempting the Marianas from guest worker cuts because of the struggles that the Marianas would face if these workers were completely wiped out of the islands.

During the 24th general assembly of the Association of Mariana Islands Mayors in Guam last Nov. 30, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang proposed a resolution requesting the governors and delegates of the Commonwealth and Guam to seek legislation from U.S Congress to authorize the islands to set the numerical limit on guest workers based on their respective economic developments and activities.

According to Apatang, the islands cannot afford to lose its contract workers because the islands greatly depend on this workforce.

"A lot of them have been here for a long time and we pretty much depend on them," said Apatang.

He said that without the contract workers, the islands would lack the workforce to provide the services that garners tourists and would cause island development to plummet.

"We cannot afford to lose our CW employees here…we just don't have the workforce to support the hotel industry, the construction [industry] especially skilled workers," he said.

Apatang said he proposed this resolution because there are a lot of investors interested in investing in the Commonwealth and without contract workers, there would be no one to carry out those development plans.

"We have a lot of new investors coming in, hotels are going up; we need our skilled workers…these nonresidents basically built the Marianas and we cannot afford for them to leave us at this time," he said.

The resolution was adopted unanimously on Nov. 30 and is currently on its way to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres of the Commonwealth, Gov. Edward Calvo of Guam, Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU), and CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

In the adopted resolution, AMIM encourages Calvo and Torres to continue efforts aimed toward resolving the current guest worker visas that unequivocally would result in the immediate disastrous impact to the economies of the respective islands should the same guest worker visa programs currently applied in the continental United States be applied to the Marianas.

The AMIM also encouraged Bordallo and Sablan to continue supporting their respective islands and its efforts by seeking federal legislation exempting the islands from the application of the guest worker visa program currently being implemented in the continental U.S. and to authorize the islands to use their respective economies as basis for setting the numerical limit on guest workers.

Man, 49, admits to touching intimate parts of teenager

A 49-year-old man accused of sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl entered a guilty plea last Dec. 5 in the Superior Court and was slapped with a sentence of 189 days of time served.

Roger Mina pleaded guilty to the offense of assault and battery, which is a lesser-included offense to sexual assault in the second degree.

Mina, a Filipino carpenter, was assisted by a court-appointed translator, Byron Piteg.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo granted the government's counsel assistant attorney general Chester Hinds' request to dismiss the remaining charges of one count of assault and battery and two counts of disturbing the peace.

Govendo sentenced Mina to one year imprisonment, with credit of 189 days of time served, with the remaining balance suspended.

It means that the defendant was released that same day, Dec 5. He was placed on two years of probation and required to pay all court costs and probation fees.

Mina was ordered to have no direct or indirect contact with the victim and has to stay 1,000 feet away from her during the probationary period. He was required to register and comply with the CNMI Sex Offender Registry, plus other conditions.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Mina engaged in sexual contact with the girl by touching her intimate parts in April 2017 on Saipan. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Christmas Costume Cat Walk
School Awards Presentation
Dec. 23
5:30 p.m. Saipan Awaodori Team
6:00 p.m. Li'l Hands School of Music
6:30 p.m. Hopwood Middle School
7:30 p.m. Saipan Music & Dance Studio
8:00 p.m. Alana'ia
8:30 p.m. FESTPAC Warriors
Dec. 30
Mochitsuki Festival
5:30 p.m. Saipan Awaodori Team
6:30 p.m. Teul Belau Dancers
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for Design-Build for the Installation of PAPI/REIL at Runway 25 at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-SA-001-11 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

One original and three copies of the sealed bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2017**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Saipan International Airport Runway 25 PAPI/REIL Installation, Project No. CPA-SA-001-11.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to Design-Build contractor to provide a complete Design and Construction for the Runway 25's New Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) and Runway End Identifier Light (REIL) Systems based on the PAPI/REIL Systems to be supplied by CPA. Design and Installation will include other related support tasks as described and all in accordance with the Statement of Work and other information.

The Project is being solely financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). Funds have been allocated, and supplemental funding will be made available depending on the bid amounts. The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Statement of Work and other information may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Saipan International Airport Conference room, at **10:00 AM, Friday, December 15, 2017** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference date.

The Contract period for Design and Construction of the Project in its entirety shall be one hundred fifty (150) calendar days. The performance period shall include all required designs calculations, progress submittal reviews, approval of the final design, complete permitting, procurement of materials, other construction incidentals, system certification, punch list corrections final operational testing, acceptance and other requirements necessary to deliver a complete, usable and dependable PAPI/REIL systems and facilities. Liquidated damages in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, seven (7) days prior to the date designated above for the bid opening.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70 of the General Provisions. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: November 16, 2017

MCS VOX Knights rock recent competitions

Members of Mount Carmel School's newest club, VOX Knights, fared well in recent competitions held by the Primary Grade Forensic League (PGFC), National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA), the National Junior Speech and Debate Association (NJSDA), and the International Thespian Society (ITS).

In PGFC, the following placed in the K-2 division: Jaze Enzo San Nicolas (3rd place, Readers Forum Masters, and 4th place, Impromptu), Remiegem Melchor (5th place, Readers Forum Masters), and Zian Michael Obnimaga (5th place, Readers Forum Masters). In the PGFC 3-5 division, the followed placed: Heleyna Dela Santa (1st place, Readers Forum Masters, 5th place, Impromptu), Valerie Ann Estalla (1st place, Impromptu, 5th place, Readers Forum Masters), Justin Mallari (1st place, Impromptu, 5th place, Readers Forum Masters), Sarah Jane Melchor (2nd place, Readers Forum Masters), Annieshka Arreza (3rd place, Readers Forum Masters), Mikaehla Paige Mendoza (3rd place, Impromptu), and Laura Mareham (4th place, Impromptu).

In NJSDA, the following placed: Kyla Cabrera (1st place, Poetry Masters, 2nd place, Duo Interpretation, 5th place, Impromptu), Renne Kiser (1st place, Impromptu, 2nd place, Duo Interpretation, 3rd place, Poetry Masters), Hannah Lacap (2nd place, Poetry Masters, 4th place, Impromptu), Jill Ann Mallari (1st place, Original Oratory, 1st place, Poetry Masters), Raesyl Gerard Solis (4th place, Original Oratory, 4th place, Poetry Masters), and Monique Duenas (4th place, Poetry Masters).

In NSDA, the following placed: Jeff Melchor (1st place, Dramatic Interpretation, 1st place, Impromptu, 5th place, Poetry Masters, 5th place, Prose Masters), Amy Rose Cabanting (2nd place, Dramatic Interpretation, 2nd place, Poetry Masters), Erica Cunanan (3rd place, Dramatic Interpretation), Michelle Palacios (1st place, Carolinian Speech, 4th place, Dramatic Interpretation, 5th place, Chamorro speech), Lletyon Andre Javier (3rd place, Original Oratory), Jim Michael Ham (3rd place, Impromptu, 4th place, Original Oratory), Joanie Paraiso (3rd place, Commentary, 4th place, US Extemporaneous), Reica Ramirez, 2nd place International Extemporaneous, 2nd place, Impromptu), and Jonelle Toskas (2nd place, Chamorro Speech, 3rd place, Poetry Masters, and 5th place, Expository).

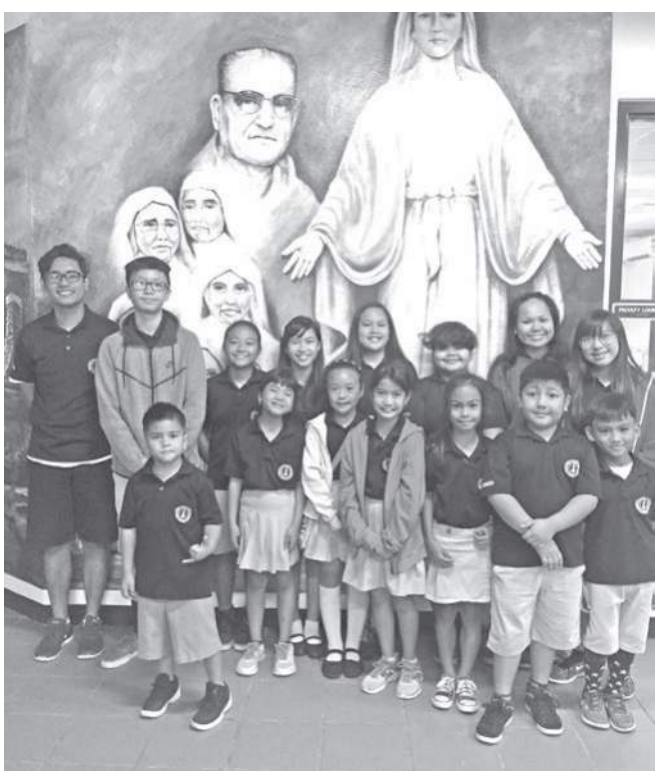
In ITS, Jan Bobadilla took 1st place in his film category and Kalea Borja and Alvin Palacios too 3rd place in their film category.

Over the years, hundreds of Mount Carmel School Knights of all ages have distinguished themselves as accomplished orators who have won countless PGFC, NJSDA, and NSDA 1st place ribbons, seven CNMI Mock Trial Championships, and 18 wins in the annual Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition. Capitalizing on this impressive track record, this year, speakers and debaters at the school came together to form a new club, VOX Knights.

Taking its name from the Latin word for voice, VOX Knights brings together students of all grade levels who use their voice in various interscholastic competitions, including NSDA, NJSDA, PGFC, Mock Trial, and ITS. Together, these students have committed themselves to the club's mission to "dicere veritas et iustitia", which in Latin means, "speak truth and justice." ***(MCS)***

MCS

NSDA/NJSDA Knights 2017 November: Junior high and high school VOX Knights who landed top spots in a recent NSDA/NJSDA competition gather for group photo with VOX Knights officers.



MCS

PGFC Knights 2017 November: Elementary VOX Knights who landed top spots in a recent PGFC competition gather for a group photo with VOX Knights officers.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
P.O. Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: (670) 322-6537 • Fax: (670) 322-6548
TTY: (670) 322-6449 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2018 First General Membership Meeting on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at the Kanoa Resort-Latte Stone Room (Saipan) from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. **Call to Order**
II. **Roll Call**
III. **Review and Adoption of Agenda of December 21, 2017**
IV. **Review and Adoption of SRC and SILC FY 2017 Joint Fourth General Membership Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2017**
V. **Reports**
   a. SRC Chairperson
   b. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Committee Chairperson
   c. Employment and Marketing Committee Chairperson
   d. Transition and Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
   e. OVR Director
VI. **Action Item: Review/Approval of Draft FY 2017 SRC and OVR Annual Report**
VII. **New Business**
   a. CSAVR/NCSAB Fall Conference Information
   b. Re – Employment System Integration (RSI) Grant
   c. RFP for Provision of Pre-ETS Services (Work Readiness Training)
VIII. **Consumer Forum**
IX. **Employer Forum**
X. **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
XI. **Adjournment**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter, are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6549 (TTY) no later than Friday, December 15, 2017.

/s/ ELIZABETH S. ADA, Chairperson

This advertisement is paid for with Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

Faith, Hope and KARIDAT
A NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS SOCIAL SERVICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR FINANCIAL AUDIT

Karidat Social Services is soliciting competitive sealed proposals to perform a financial and compliance audit on its records for fiscal years September 30, 2017, 2018, and 2019. The proposal must be submitted to Karidat's office at VS Sablan Building or mailed to Karidat Social Services; P.O. Box 500745, Saipan, MP 96950 by January 30, 2018, 4:30 p.m.

I. **Contents of Proposal:** the following information must be included in the Audit Proposal:
   A. Title Page Containing
      1. RFP Subject
      2. Name of the Firm
      3. Local Address
      4. Telephone Number (s)
      5. Email address
      6. Name of contact person
      7. Submission date
II. **Transmittal Letter:**
   A. A brief statement of your understanding of the work to be performed and an affirmative statement to perform work within the time period stipulated.
   B. State all inclusive fees for which the audit will be performed.
III. **Firm Profile:**
Provide a brief description of your firm's personnel education background and experience, number of staff, staff level (partner, manager, supervisor, etc.) and listing of clients serviced. The firm must make an affirmative statement that at least the partners are Certified Public Accountants (CPA's).
IV. **Proposal Evaluation Criteria:** The proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria.
   A. Responsiveness of the proposal in clearly stating understanding of the work to be performed.
      1. Audit coverage
      2. Overall estimates as well as the time estimates for each major section of the work to be performed.
   B. Qualifications and experience of the firm
      1. Size and structure of the firm.
      2. Ability to maintain continuity of project.
      3. Experience of the firm in auditing Federal Financial Assistance programs and Non-Profit Organizations.
   C. Qualifications and experience of staff to be assigned: education, position in the firm, number of years, and types of experience will be considered.
      1. Qualifications of the audit team.
      2. Supervision to be exercised over the firm's audit team.
   D. Audit Fee
V. **Audit Administration Matters:**
   A. Karidat staff will prepare schedule as required by the Auditor.
   B. Audit Planning meetings, interim conferences and exit conference may be attended by the following officials.
      1. Karidat's Board of Directors, the Executive Director, Accountants, and the Administrative Officer.
   C. Karidat will issue the Contract Award on February 15, 2018.
   D. The audit field work must be completed by April 15, 2018.
   E. The draft audit report must be completed by May, 2018.
   F. The Final Audit Report will be transmitted on June 01, 2018.
VI. **Confidentiality of Audit Proposals:** all audit proposals will be reviewed in a confidential manner. Proposals must be labeled "CONFIDENTIAL" and transmitted to the Executive Director, Karidat Social Services, P.O. Box 500745, Saipan, MP 96950. It may also be hand delivered to Karidat's Office located at VS Sablan Building, Chalan Piao.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-002-18

PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF SECURITY CAMERAS AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the procurement, installation & commissioning of security cameras and surveillance systems at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Proposal Package and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning November 27, 2017 at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement, Installation & Commissioning of Security Cameras and Surveillance System, BTMIA, Rota, Project No. CPA-RA-002-18". One original and three copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME, December 22, 2017**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All Proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on Rota on **December 15, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Benjamin Manglona Rota International Airport (CPA) conference room. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only those vendors present at the pre-proposal conference will be allowed to submit proposals. A site visit will be conducted immediately after the conference or may be requested by making appointments with the CPA Rota Ports Manager to ensure that proposers submitting a proposal are aware of the general area where the surveillance cameras are to be installed.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejections or cancellations; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.
CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

This Project is funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

_____ _____
CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO Date
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

INSTALLATION OF MARINE FENDERS PORT OF SAIPAN PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-007-18

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the ''CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to supply and install marine fenders at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50, Procurement Rules and Regulations of Title 40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIAC"). Title 40, including Chapter 40-50-225, Request for proposals, of the NMIAC is applicable to the process followed by this RFP.

The proposal package containing the Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning November 30, 2017, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrivals Building, Saipan International Airport no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, December 22, 2017. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal (bid) bond issued by a U.S. Treasury Listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Business

GOP says it's got a deal on taxes; cuts coming for next year

WASHINGTON (AP)—Confident congressional Republicans forged an agreement Wednesday on a major overhaul of the nation's tax laws that would provide generous tax cuts for corporations and the wealthiest Americans—Donald Trump among them—and deliver the first major legislative accomplishment to the GOP president.

Middle- and low-income families would get smaller tax cuts, though Trump and GOP leaders have billed the package as a huge benefit for the middle class. The measure would scrap a major tax requirement of Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, a step toward the ultimate GOP goal of unraveling the law.

"The cynical voices that opposed tax cuts grow smaller and weaker, and the American people grow stronger," Trump said at the White House. "This is for people of middle income, this is for companies that are going to create jobs. This is for very, very special people, the great people of America."

The business tax cuts would be permanent, but reductions for individuals would expire after a decade—saving money to comply with Senate budget rules. In all, the bill would cut taxes by about $1.5 trillion over the next 10 years, adding billions to the nation's mounting debt.

The legislation, which is still being finalized, would cut the top tax rate for the wealthy from 39.6 percent to 37 percent, slash the corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent and allow homeowners to deduct interest only on the first $750,000 of a new mortgage.

The top tax rate currently applies to income above $470,000 for married couples, though lawmakers are reworking the tax brackets.

The standard deduction would be nearly doubled, to $24,000 for married couples.

Details of the agreement were described by Republican senators and congressional aides.

"It's not my vision of the perfect, but again, this is definitely going to be a strong pro-growth tax package," said Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis.

Republicans see passage of the legislation as a political imperative, proving to voters they can govern as the GOP fights to hold onto its majorities in the House and Senate. Republicans said they expect the package to increase economic growth, generating additional tax revenue and lessening the hit to the budget deficit. Independent economists aren't as optimistic.

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said she and her colleagues expect a "modest lift" to economic growth from the tax package.

Yellen said at a news conference the likelihood of lower taxes is why Fed officials expect the economy to grow at 2.5 percent in 2018. But growth would then slip back closer to its recent 2 percent average.

She said that any wage growth would likely stem from the low unemployment rate rather than the tax cuts.

Negotiators have removed several controversial provisions from the tax bill, including one that would have eliminated the deduction for interest on student loans and another deduction for medical expenses, said two congressional aides.

Also, the bill would no longer start taxing graduate-school tuition waivers, said the aides, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss private negotiations.

The tax bill would scale back the deduction for state and local taxes, allowing families to deduct only up to a total of $10,000 in property and income taxes. The deduction is especially important to residents of high-tax states like New York, New Jersey and California.

Business owners who report business income on their personal tax returns would be able to deduct 20 percent of that income.

The bill would repeal the mandate that most Americans get health insurance, a provision of the 2010 health care law. Republicans suffered a humiliating defeat this past summer when they were unable to dismantle the health care law after seven years of promises. Scrapping the individual mandate would provide them with more than $300 billion for deeper tax cuts while undermining the law.

Senate leaders plan to vote on the package Tuesday. If it passes, the House would vote next. GOP leaders hope to send the bill to Trump before Christmas.

In the last 6 years, 18 people in the CNMI died in car crashes caused by impaired driving.
That's 18 less gifts under the Christmas Tree this year
Don't be the cause of one less gift under the tree
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THIS HOLIDAY SEASON
NHTSA
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
National Highway Traffic Safety Adminsitration (NHTSA)
For more information contact DPS at
SAIPAN 664-9000/9084/85
TINIAN 433-9433/2041
ROTA 532-9222/9530

ROBERT T. TORRES
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms, Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7859
Fax: 234-5750

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. KYLE E.M. ULECHONG and JENNIFER N.W. ULECHONG, Defendants.	Civil Action No. 09-0407 NOTICE OF HEARING FOR MOTION TO CONFIRM SALE OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Motion to Confirm Sale of Mortgaged Property by Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust in this matter has been filed with the Court and said Motion is set for a hearing on this 10th day of January, 2018, at 9:00, am/pm, before Judge Kim Tenorio in the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of November, 2017.
CLERK OF COURT

JOE HILL, Esq.
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

GEMMA TARROZA-BATUSIN, Petitioner, Versus NORBERTO M. BATUSIN Respondent.	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0469 SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 3rd day of October, 2017
/s/
Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

Nation

GOP's not all that sad; party grapples with Alabama fallout

WASHINGTON (AP)—Weary national Republicans breathed a collective sigh of relief on Wednesday, a day after voters knocked out their own party's scandal-plagued candidate in deep-red Alabama. Yet all is not well in a party confronted with new rounds of infighting and a suddenly shrinking Senate majority heading into next year's midterm elections.

A semi-humbled President Donald Trump conceded that Roy Moore's loss was not his preferred outcome. He said he "would have liked to have had the seat" and an important Senate vote as he and GOP lawmakers scratch for legislative victories.

But he also acknowledged, "A lot of Republicans feel differently. They feel very happy about the way it turned out."

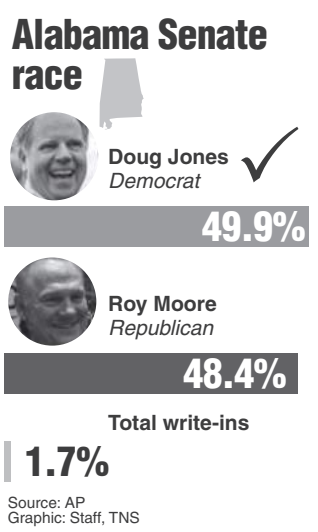
Indeed, it was easy to find establishment-minded Republicans— in and out of Washington— who cheered Moore's loss as the impact of the Alabama stunner echoed throughout the political world. The prospect of a high-profile Republican senator dogged by sexual misconduct accusations— and an all-but-certain ethics investigation— unnerved a GOP that's fearful of an albatross on its candidates in next year's campaigns.

Republican Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby said that Moore, a fiery conservative, would have brought a "radioactive" element to the Senate GOP.

"I'm relieved and I believe a lot of Republicans are relieved that Roy Moore and some of his people aren't the face of the Republican Party that I know," said Shelby, who cast a write-in vote for another Republican and never backed down in his opposition to Moore.

More than 22,000 write-in votes were cast Tuesday, more than the margin of difference between the winner and loser, suggesting many other voters refused to vote for a Democrat but couldn't accept Moore.

Sen.-elect Doug Jones' stunning Democratic victory marked a major setback for Trump and top political ally Steve Bannon. They had devoted time, resources and political capital to Moore in recent days, even as he faced the allegations of sexual misconduct and espoused views that alienated women, racial minorities, gays and Muslims.



Despite the outcome's relief for the GOP's pragmatic wing, the fight for the party's soul was hardly decided with one Alabama special election.

Allies of Bannon, who declared war on the party's establishment after leaving the White House earlier in the year, dismissed the loss as little more than a temporary setback that would soon be forgotten. Republicans cheering Moore's loss, they said, would simply enrage Trump's most loyal supporters nationwide, who already suspected some Republican leaders were trying to undermine the president's agenda.

"They're stomping on the very base they need to turn out for their candidates in the general election in 2018," said Andy Surabian, a senior adviser to the Bannon-backed Great America PAC. He contended that "the average Republican voter across the country is pointing their finger at Mitch McConnell and the Republican establishment."

Conservative activist Mark Meckler did just that.

"One hundred percent of this I hang around Mitch McConnell's neck," said Meckler, an early tea party leader, referring to the mainstream Republican who is Senate majority leader.

Bombing underscores New York subway system's vulnerability

NEW YORK (AP)—The crude pipe bomb that exploded beneath the streets of New York this week served as a chilling reminder of the vulnerability of the city's subway system, a 24-hour-a-day operation with 472 stations and more than 5 million daily riders.

While police say the nation's largest subway system has some of the tightest security possible that still allows busy New Yorkers to get where they're going, they acknowledge they can't be everywhere or anticipate every kind of attack, particularly in this era of lone-wolf terrorism.

"It's very difficult, and it's getting harder," John Miller, the New York Police Department's deputy commissioner of intelligence and counterterrorism, said on CBS's "This Morning." ''This is not the al-Qaida model, where a cell of people who are communicating with a base are an intelligence problem."

Instead, he said, the threat is coming from people "where the conspiracy is within the confines of their own mind."

Investigators say that appears to be what happened Monday, when a Bangladeshi immigrant indoctrinated into terrorism through internet videos strapped a bomb to his body and set it off in a busy passageway. He was the only one seriously hurt, suffering burns on his hands and torso.

Akayed Ullah, who's 27, was charged with federal terrorism-related offenses punishable by up to life in prison and was informed of the charges via video Wednesday as he lay in his hospital bed. He did not enter a plea and said little during the hearing, which lasted a little over 10 minutes.

It was the second lone-wolf terror attack on the city in six weeks. On Oct. 31, a man in a rented truck mowed down cyclists and pedestrians on a crowded bike path near the World Trade Center, killing eight people.

But the blast this week was the first bombing on the subway in 23 years, a streak police attribute in part to a multilayered security approach that begins with 3,000 officers underground every day, patrolling trains and platforms.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-038, Rev. 1

Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to perform mitigation of the CUC power distribution system through the replacement of 374 wood poles to concrete poles in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project entails the replacement of 103 units of 35-foot and 271 units of 40-foot wood poles to concrete poles and the assembly of electrical hardware. The work site is to take place across CUC's power grid.

This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the CUC and FEMA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **171 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-038, Rev. 1, Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 12, 2018** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). ***Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.***

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 29, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Jr. Electrical Engineer – via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-004

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS
(Revised December 13, 2017)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-18-004, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 26, 2018,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.*

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7).

Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders shall comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 10, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org; Joseph Crisostimo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email joseph.crisostimo@cucgov.org; and Alfred Palattao, CUC Power Division, Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Asia

PH Congress votes to extend martial law in south

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine Congress voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to approve President Rodrigo Duterte's request to extend martial law in the south by a year after the military warned that terrorist threats continue in the region despite the defeat of a disastrous siege by pro-Islamic State group militants.

A majority in the Senate and the House of Representatives — with 240 voting to approve and 27 opposing — backed the extension of martial law across the Mindanao region through the end of 2018. The vote followed warnings by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and other officials that IS-linked militants were trying to recover from their defeat in southern Marawi city and were plotting new attacks.

"The rebellion has not stopped, it has just moved to another place," Lorenzana told lawmakers in a special joint session.

Duterte thanked Congress in a speech at an army ceremony where hundreds of rifles and other weapons used by the extremists in Marawi were destroyed with a road roller. Asked by reporters about the prospects of martial law being imposed nationwide, the president said it cannot be ruled out if the country's survival is at stake.

"You threaten the existence of the Republic of the Philippines, I am sure that everybody will react and do what he must do to prevent it," he said.

A number of lawmakers from the south backed martial law, saying it would prevent a repeat of the bloody Marawi siege and foster the Islamic city's rebuilding.

Five months of intense fighting, including daily airstrikes and artillery bombardments by the military against hundreds of militants, left more than 1,100 combatants and noncombatants dead and displaced about half a million people, turning mosque-studded Marawi's central business and residential districts into a smoldering war zone.

Lorenzana said it would take at least three years to rebuild Marawi, a bastion of Islamic faith in the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines.

Opponents argued that extending martial law in the south is unconstitutional because it's an "extreme measure" that can only be imposed when actual rebellions against the government exist. They expressed fears that such a move can be a prelude for Duterte to declare martial law throughout the Philippines.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, who heads the main opposition Liberal Party, rejected the martial law extension, saying it did not have a clear constitutional basis. He cited the government's declaration that the terrorists have been defeated in Marawi, and said that major rebel attacks have been dealt with by past presidents without resorting to martial rule.

"We will be in danger of becoming the monsters that we seek to defeat, those who have no regard for law, order or respect for the constitution," Pangilinan said.

Opposition Rep. Tom Villarin said the remaining threats posed by Muslim militants in the south could be addressed by law enforcers without martial law and added that scheduled local elections in the south could be endangered by Duterte's declaration. Another opposition legislator, Edgar Erice, warned that the Philippines risks being regarded as a "banana republic" if officials flaunt the constitution.

Asked by a lawmaker what difference martial law will make, military chief of staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero acknowledged that it would not give any "power tactically to troops," but argued that "it provides the environment for us to succeed."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan court orders shutdown of nuclear reactor near volcano

TOKYO (AP)—A court has ruled that a nuclear reactor in southwestern Japan should not operate because it's too close to an active volcano and could be affected by a major eruption. The Hiroshima high court's decision Wednesday is likely to force the Unit 3 reactor at the Ikata nuclear plant in Ehime prefecture to stay offline after its regular inspection ends in February. The court said the nuclear regulators' risk estimate for Mount Aso, 130 kilometers (78 miles) southwest of the plant, was inadequate. The decision reverses a lower court ruling and upholds the plaintiffs' request for an injunction. Dozens of lawsuits and injunction requests have been filed across Japan over safety concerns since the 2011 Fukushima disaster, slowing down a government push for more reactors to be operated.

Thailand welcomes easing of EU political sanctions

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's military junta has welcomed the European Union's decision to ease political sanctions imposed against it for overthrowing an elected government in 2014. The EU's announcement is "good news" that underscores positive developments under military rule, Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai said Tuesday. The EU's Foreign Affairs Council announced Monday that it was "appropriate to pursue a gradual political re-engagement with Thailand" because it had improved some human rights conditions by no longer prosecuting civilians in military courts for many offenses, adopted a new constitution and set an election date for 2018. The EU suspended official visits with Thailand in response to the coup.

Top Indonesia court rejects attempt to criminalize gay sex

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's top court has ruled against petitioners seeking to make gay sex and sex outside marriage illegal. A majority of the nine-judge panel of the Constitutional Court on Thursday rejected the arguments of a conservative group, the Family Love Alliance, that was behind the case. Rights advocates had feared the court would outlaw gay sex and sex outside marriage and set back human rights in the world's most populous Muslim nation. Judges say it's the not court's role to criminalize private behaviour. Four judges argued to outlaw same-sex relations and sex outside marriage.

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library (Technology Room) in Susupe, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. **PRELIMINARIES:**
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes: November 29, 2017

II. **REPORTS:**
A. Report by the Chairman
B. Report by the Executive Director

III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

IV. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:**
A. Casino Licensee (IPI) Updates:
1. Construction Progress – Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel (Imperial Palace)
2. IPI Personnel – Resident Employment Objectives & CLA Annual Plan
3. Responsible Gaming Program
4. Compliance Committee
5. Other Miscellaneous Matters

B. Other Matters:

V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
A. Proposed Permanent Adoption of Casino Regulations:
1. § 175-10.1-920(b) Casino Employee Licensee Standards.
2. § 175-10.1-1105 Duty to Disclose and Cooperate.
3. § 175-10.1-1130 Consent to Examination of Accounts and Records.
4. § 175-10.1-1315 Disqualification Criteria.
5. § 175-10.1-1501 Commencement of Complaint.
6. § 175-10.1-1510 Notice of Defense.
7. § 175-10.1-1515 Right to Hearing; Waiver.
8. § 175-10.1-1525 Revocation of License or Registration; Hearing.
9. § 175-10.1-1855 Collection of Gaming Credit.
10. § 175-10.1-2605 Licensure and Registration Required.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
A. Executive Director v. Marianas Enterprises Limited: #CCC-PVCL-2016-012. Entry of Default Judgment. Consideration of and Issuance of ORDER revoking CCC-PVCL-2016-012, DENYING application for license, and imposing fine.

B. Consideration of and adoption for publication for public comment proposed amendment to Part 1900 of the Regulations concerning casino key employee and casino employee duties relative to Conflicts of Interest.

C. Consideration of and adoption of Order #17-00_ concerning casino licensee's responsibilities relative to Conflicts of Interest.

D. Approval of Regular Casino Service Provider License (2-Year License)

1. Paltronics Australasia Pty Ltd (dba: Paltronics).
Distributor of Electronic Gaming Equipment & related goods.
2. CMC Trading Engineering (International) PTE LTD.
Electronic Gaming Chips, Machines and other gaming goods.
3. Aruze Gaming America, Inc.
Manufacturers and Distributers of Electronic Gaming Machines.

E. Notification of Provisional Casino Key Employee (CKE) Licenses:
1. Chen, Xing Yu ("Ed"). *Title: Chief Financial Officer (Exp. 12/11/18)*
2. Ho, Sao Kun ("Joanna"). *Title: Vice President of Finance (Exp. 12/14/18)*

F. Notification of Provisional Non-Gaming Vendor Licenses:
1. Mariana Pioneer (CNMI), LLC. Mechanical and Electrical Consultation and Inspection (Exp. 12/11/18)
2. Trans Eurokars Pte Ltd. (Dba: Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Singapore). Distributor of Motor Vehicles (Exp. 12/11/18)
3. W.W. Grainger, Inc. (dba: Grainger). Distributor of Mechanical and Electrical Equipment and Supplies (Exp. 12/06/18)

VII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
A. Report by the Legal Counsel
B. Report by the CCC Audit Division
C. IPI Financial Matters

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more if necessary.

Juan M. Sablan
Chairman

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, December 19, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
a. Regular Board Meeting – October 23, 2017

2) **Public Comments**

3) **Committee Reports**
1. Finance –
a. Fund Status Report

4) **New Business**
1. Off-Shore Offices Contract Renewal
2. Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Paseo de Marianas Improvement Project
3. House of Chamorros Sponsorship

5) **Old Business**
1. MOU for Garapan Heritage Trail – No Cost Extension
2. MOU for Rota Mt. Sabana 360 Lookout Project – No Cost Extension
3. MOU for Tinian Observation Deck Project – No Cost Extension
4. NMIFA Soccer Training Center

6) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
7) **Executive Session**
8) **Adjournment**

/s/ Gloria Cavanagh
Chairwoman, MVA Board of Directors

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Division of Fish & Wildlife
Department of Lands and Natural Resources
Lower Base, P.O. Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

SMILING COVE MARINA TRANSIENT DOCK PUBLIC MEETING

This is to inform the public and all Smiling Cove Marina Transient Dock users, that there will be a meeting open to the public, at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

The purpose of this meeting is to allow for questions and answers related to the new process at the Smiling Cove Marina Transient Dock. Discussions will specifically address proposed regulations, fee schedules & assigning loading/unloading schedules for Commercial users.

World

Abbas says UN should replace US as Mideast mediator

ISTANBUL (AP)—Breaking with years of courting the U.S., Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called Wednesday for the United Nations to replace Washington as a Mideast mediator and suggested he might not cooperate with the Trump administration's much-anticipated effort to hammer out an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

At a summit in Turkey, Arab and Muslim leaders "rejected and condemned" President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital— the trigger for Abbas' sharp policy pivot— but stopped short of backing his more combative approach toward Washington.

A possible Palestinian refusal to engage with the U.S. and growing backlash against Trump's shift on Jerusalem, including from Arab allies, cast new doubt over the administration's already seemingly remote chances of brokering a deal and succeeding where its predecessors have failed.

Abbas

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Wednesday the administration would continue to work on a Mideast plan that it believes will benefit Israelis and Palestinians. Referring to Abbas, she said that the "type of rhetoric that we heard has prevented peace in the past, and it's not necessarily surprising that those types of things would be said."

In shunning the U.S., Abbas would find himself in uncharted territory.

He does not have an immediate practical alternative to more than two decades of U.S.-led negotiations on the terms of Palestinian statehood. The Palestinians seek such a state on lands captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war— the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem.

On the other hand, Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital was decried by Palestinians and others in the region as a provocative show of pro-Israel bias, making it difficult for Abbas to justify dealing with Washington as a mediator.

Trump's argument that his announcement does not mean an endorsement of specific boundaries of Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem has not gained traction in the ensuing uproar.

The fate of Jerusalem is a hot-button issue in the region, and even the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Egypt— reportedly eager to help advance Trump's Mideast efforts— cannot afford to be seen as soft on the religious claims of Muslims and political claims of Palestinians to the contested city. Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem is home to Islam's third-holiest shrine, along with the most revered site in Judaism and a major Christian church.

Wednesday's extraordinary summit of the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation ended with a call on Trump to rescind an "unlawful decision that might trigger chaos in the region" and on the world to recognize east Jerusalem as the capital of a state of Palestine.

A concluding statement lacked tougher criticism of U.S. policy contained in an earlier draft, which questioned Washington's continued role as a Mideast mediator and warned that Trump's shift on Jerusalem threatened global security.

UN chief: Iran may be defying UN on missiles, OK on nukes

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is warning that Iran may be defying a U.N. call to halt ballistic missile development even as it complies with the nuclear deal with six world powers.

The U.N. chief says in a report to the Security Council that the United Nations is investigating Iran's possible transfer of ballistic missiles to Houthi Shiite rebels in Yemen that may have been used in launches aimed at Saudi Arabia on July 22 and Nov. 4.

The report on implementation of a U.N. resolution that endorsed the July 2015 nuclear agreement was obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press. The U.S. Mission to the United Nations said Ambassador Nikki Haley would hold a news conference Thursday in Washington to highlight its findings as well as Iran's "destabilizing activities in the Middle East region and elsewhere in the world."

In the report, Guterres stressed that the nuclear deal remains "the best way" to ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program.

He said President Donald Trump's Oct. 13 decision not to certify the agreement under U.S. law created "considerable uncertainty" about its future. But, he added, "I am reassured that the United States has expressed its commitment to stay in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action for now."

Trump, however, has left open the possibility of pulling out of the nuclear deal.

Guterres welcomed support for the treaty from its other parties— China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany, the European Union and numerous other countries.

"I encourage the United States to maintain its commitments to the plan and to consider the broader implications for the region before taking any further steps," he said. "Similarly, I encourage the Islamic Republic of Iran to carefully consider the concerns raised by other participants in the plan."

Trump has called the agreement a bad deal, and the U.S. has focused especially on its time limits and a provision in the Security Council resolution that calls on Iran not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

Guterres said the U.N. is studying debris from missiles fired at Yanbu in Saudi Arabia on July 22 and at the capital of Riyadh on Nov. 4 and also is reviewing other information.

Congo court sentences 12 to life for gang-raping children

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—In a groundbreaking trial in a country where sexual violence is rampant and perpetrators often go unpunished, a military court in eastern Congo on Wednesday sentenced 12 militia members to life in prison for the gang-rapes of dozens of children as young as 11 months old, and for murder.

The court convicted provincial deputy Frederic Batumike for organizing the violence that began in 2013 and continued for years in the village of Kavumu, about 25 kilometers (15 miles) north of Bukavu city. Young girls were raped in the militia members' superstitious belief that it would make them "impervious to bullets," a United Nations report said earlier this year.

The court awarded $5,000 to each victim of sexual violence and $15,000 to the families of those killed for criticizing the militia's actions.

The organization Physicians for Human Rights called it the first time a sitting government official in Congo had been found guilty of "superior responsibility for crimes he and his militia, whom he controlled and financed, committed."

Immunity was waived for Batumike, a member of parliament, to stand trial.

"This trial demonstrated that justice can be served in the Congo, when an investigation is effectively carried out and evidence is methodically collected, even when the accused wield significant power and are highly organized," said Karen Naimer, director of the organization's program on sexual violence in conflict zones.

She said it is now the responsibility of Congolese authorities to use similar measures to "rigorously

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO.: CPA-IFB-006-18

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2017 TIME 2:00 PM

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF THREE (3) UNIT 2017 ACCESS CAB WORK TRUCKS 4CYL/4WD, AUTO TRANSMISSION, AIR CONDITION WHITE COLOR, ALL OTHER FEATURES AS PER FACTORY SPECS. LOCKABLE FITTED BED TOOL BOX TO BE INCLUDED.

TWO (2) UNITS ARE FOR THE SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. ONE (1) UNIT IS FOR TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. BIDDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO DELIVER THE VEHICLES TO THEIR DESTINATION.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE ORIGINAL BID AND 2 COPIES TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: "PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-006-18" BIDDERS SHALL GUARANTEE DELIVERY OF THE VEHICLES WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM AWARD OF THIS BID. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BID SHALL BE IN WRITING AND SEND VIA EMAIL TO atudela@cpa.gov.mp prior to December 8, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND §40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIALDEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

/s/
CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Date: 11/21/2017

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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INVITATION FOR BID
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT/
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-002-18

MAINTENANCE DEPT OFFICE RENOVATION

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of this Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies and/or corporations for office renovations to the Maintenance Department Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Saipan International Airport.

The Scope of Work is available for pick-up beginning November 29, 2017 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Executive Director's Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The Scope of Work includes layouts and project specification. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the Scope of Work. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project if so required.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com with copy to Fermin Flores at ferminf@cpa.gov.mp no later than December 8, 2017.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT OFFICE RENOVATION, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-SA-002-18." One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2 p.m. LOCAL TIME, December 15, 2017, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

Executive Director Date

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

CNMI Government

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO.: CPA-IFB-003-18

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 22, 2017 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT 2018 SUV VEHICLE 6CYL/4WD, AUTO TRANSMISSION, AIR-CONDITION WHITE COLOR, ALL OTHER FEATURES AS PER FACTORY SPECS. BIDDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO DELIVER THE VEHICLE TO THE SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE ORIGINAL BID AND 2 COPIES TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: **"PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-18"** BIDDERS SHALL GUARANTEE DELIVERY OF THE VEHICLE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2017. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BID SHALL BE IN WRITING AND SEND VIA EMAIL TO atudela@cpa.gov.mp prior to December 18, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND §40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO Date: _____
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Life & Style

11th Asian Supermodel Contest: A bevy of top models on Saipan

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The models-candidates of the 11th Asian Supermodel Contest pose for a group photo. The international competition will be held on Saipan this Saturday evening at Imperial Palace.

This Saturday the fiercest of all international model searches—the Asian Supermodel Contest—will be held on Saipan.

Twenty-seven stunning and statuesque supermodels representing 14 countries will compete for the most coveted title in international modeling competitions, which has produced some of today's top image, print, fashion, runway, and commercial models.

The 11th Asian Supermodel Contest is hosted by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC. Marianas Visitors Authority and telecom giant, IT&E, are the major sponsors.

With the staging of the 11th edition of the Asian Model Contest, this will further catapult Saipan into the international stage. The island is increasingly becoming a popular location for international events.

Upon the invitation of Imperial Pacific International, the organizers have found Saipan to have just everything they need for the international modeling competition. From its charming climate to its captivating and beautiful natural beauty, the organizers said Saipan is a perfect location for the international competition. One of the highlights of the international competition are its outdoor activities and photo shoots.

This is the first time that an international modeling competition will be held on Saipan.

Competition details

Leading to the finals night, series of activities have already been held.

Tonight (Friday) at 10pm the preliminary competition—Asia Supermodel Dress Show—will be held at the Imperial Palace.

The finals will be on Saturday at 7:30pm at the grand lobby of Imperial Palace. Following the competition and the crowning of the winners will be the cocktail party/reception.

There are 27 models-contestants who will strut it out for the crown on Saturday evening. They are representing China, Japan, Korea, America, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, India, Thailand, the Philippines, and Malaysia.

During the finals night, all of the 27 models-contestant will compete in four segments/categories: 1) Opening show; 2) "Hosa" swimsuit show; 3) National Dress show, and 4) NE-TIGER high level appointed dress show.

Hosa Brand is China's top swimwear brand.

NE-TIGER is China's top fashion and luxury brand.

Judges will crown among the 27 models-contests the Asia Supermodel 2017 champion, first runner-up, second runner-up, the Best Ten Asian Supermodel, Best T-stage Performance Award, Best Body Award, Best Photogenic Award, Most Potential Award, and the International Friendship Award.

Established in 2006, the Asian Supermodel Search has produced some of the recognizable models that have walked the world's famous runways and graced major print covers.

It was created with purpose of discovering and producing supermodels from the Asia-Pacific region. (***PR***)

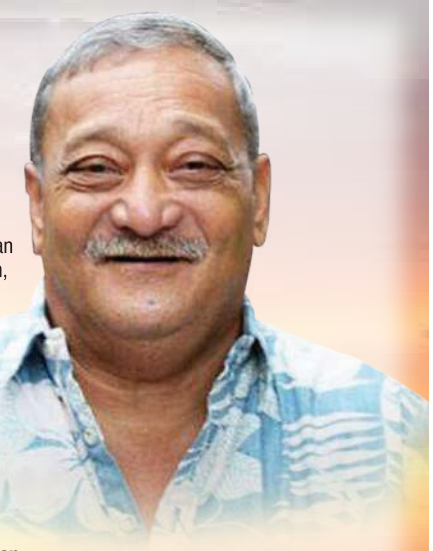
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The turquoise water of the Saipan lagoon provides a picture perfect setting for the candidates.

In Celebration of His New Life

†Jesus Hosono Sablan

Better known as "Jesus Mayor" and "Muming"
June 25, 1954 – December 10, 2017



In his new life, he now joins his:

Mother: †Felicidad (Mitsuko) Hosono Sablan
Father: †Vicente Diaz Sablan
Maternal Grandmother: †Libouligh (Rita) Selepeo Hosono
Maternal Grandfather: †Seizaburo Hosono
Paternal Grandmother: †Joaquina Diaz Sablan
Paternal Grandfather: †Gregorio San Nicolas Sablan (Kilili)
Sisters: †Rita H. Sablan and †Alliluyeva H. Sablan
Brothers: †Gregorio H. Sablan I, †Edwin H. Sablan, and †Gregorio H. Sablan II
Mother-in-Law: †Natividad Tudela Castro
Father-in-Law: †Manuel Terlaje Castro
Maternal Grandmother: †Elena Deleon Guerrero Tudela
Maternal Grandfather: †Agustin Sablan Tudela
Paternal Grandmother: †Maria Terlaje Castro
Paternal Grandfather: †Felix Manibusan Castro
Brother-In-Law: †Augustin T. Castro

He is survived by:

Wife: **Maria Elena (Helen) Tudela Castro Sablan**
Children: **Patrick Earl Maañao**: Shannen, Kathleen Enguun, Bilguun, **Linda Jo M./**Jocel Panhilason: Kyle and Desirae Mafnas (Kira and Bradley); Joseph Mafnas III (Zariah Summer); Baron Mafnas; Carina Maañao; Daisy Panhilason and Mark Catanghal, **Vincent John M.**/Charlene M. Sablan: Justin, Justice, Nicholas, Nathan and Nhyan, **Joey C.**/Sarinee Sablan, **Jay C. Sablan**/Erica Santos: Toricah, Kaylanie, Jeslena, Cristin and Jay Jr., **Christine C. Sablan**/Roland Delos Reyes: Marlenie Mitsuko, **Jesse C. Sablan**

Reared Son: **Franklin B. Camacho**

Sisters & Spouses: Children of †Rita H. Sablan, Emma S./Joseph C. Villagomez & Children

Brothers & Spouse: Francisco H./Margaret C. Sablan & Children
Children of †Gregorio H. Sablan II
Vicente H. Sablan & Children

Sisters-in-Law & Spouses: †Maria T./Antonio A. Palacios (Connie) & Children
†Rita C. Terlaje/†Julian Q. Reyes (Ellen) & Children
Annie T./Frank Pickelsimer (Frank J. Pickelsimer, III)
Magdalena T./Mark Hazen & Children
†Antonia T./Donald Woodworth & Children
†Rosita T./Mark S. Pangelinan & Children

Brothers-in-Law & Spouses: Felix T./Ludevina Castro & Children, †Augustin T./Nathania N. Castro & Children, Juan T.Cruz/Tricia B. Camacho & Children, †Vicente C./Maria (Kitalang) L. Terlaje & Children, Jose T./Elizabeth Q. Terlaje & Children

He is also survived by aunts, uncles, numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is celebrated at 6:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday and 5:30 p.m. Saturday/Sunday at San Vicente Church and is immediately followed by the Holy Rosary.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, December 18, 2017. His remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Catheral at 7:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. followed by Interment at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts, prayers and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Helen, the Children and Family

Hayek says rebuffing Weinstein led to nightmare on 'Frida'

AP
In this Nov. 15, 2017 file photo, actress Salma Hayek attends the HFPA and InStyle Celebrate the 2018 Golden Globe Awards Season in West Hollywood, Calif.

NEW YORK (AP)—In one of the most vivid accounts yet of Harvey Weinstein's alleged abuse and harassment, Salma Hayek says the disgraced movie mogul turned the making of her 2002 passion project, the Frida Kahlo biopic "Frida," into a nightmare after the actress refused Weinstein's relentless advances.

"For years, he was my monster," Hayek wrote in an op-ed published Wednesday by The New York Times.

Her refusals— of massages, showers and sex— enraged him, she wrote. "I don't think he hated anything more than the word 'no,'" wrote Hayek.

Hayek, who regularly starred in films released by Weinstein's Miramax in the 1990s, credited Weinstein with helping her start her career. But she said that the movie mogul would turn up at her door "at all hours of the night, hotel after hotel, location after location."

When Hayek brought "Frida," which she was producing, to Miramax to distribute, Weinstein made outrageous demands as payback. Hayek said he insisted on rewrites, more financing and, most heinously to her, a sex scene with full frontal nudity. He even threated to kill her, she said.

In order to finish what was a labor of love for Hayek, she agreed. But she said she had a nervous breakdown while shooting the scene. "My body wouldn't stop crying and convulsing," wrote Hayek.

"It was not because I would be naked with another woman," she wrote. "It was because I would be naked with her for Harvey Weinstein."

Even still, Weinstein initially refused to give the movie a theatrical release. He eventually relented after pressure from director Julie Taymor and Hayek. It went on to gross $56.3 million worldwide and land six Oscar nominations, winning two.

In a statement through a spokesperson Wednesday, Weinstein denied Hayek's depiction of their relationship and said the battles on "Frida" were "creative friction."

"All of the sexual allegations as portrayed by Salma are not accurate and others who witnessed the events have a different account of what transpired," said the statement.

"Mr. Weinstein does not recall pressuring Salma to do a gratuitous sex scene with a female costar and he was not there for the filming," read the statement. "However, that was part of the story, as Frida Kahlo was bisexual and the more significant sex scene in the movie was choreographed by Ms. Hayek with Geoffrey Rush."

Dozens of women have accused Weinstein of sexual harassment, and numerous women have said he raped them. Weinstein, who is currently under investigation for sexual assault in four cities, has denied all allegations of nonconsensual sex.

"Why do so many of us, as female artists, have to go to war to tell our stories when we have so much to offer? Why do we have to fight tooth and nail to maintain our dignity?" concluded Hayek in her op-ed. "I think it is because we, as women, have been devalued artistically to an indecent state, to the point where the film industry stopped making an effort to find out what female audiences wanted to see and what stories we wanted to tell."

Report: 3 women accuse music mogul Russell Simmons of rape

NEW YORK (AP)—Three women have told the New York Times that music mogul Russell Simmons raped them, the latest in a cascade of serious allegations of sexual misconduct against powerful men in entertainment, media, politics and elsewhere.

Simmons vehemently denied what he called "these horrific accusations," saying in a statement emailed to The Associated Press that "all of my relations have been consensual."

The allegations reported by the Times Wednesday stem from the 1980s and 1990s. One woman, Drew Dixon, said Simmons assaulted her in his downtown apartment in 1995, when she was an executive at Def Jam Recordings, reporting to Simmons. She quit Def Jam soon after, she told the Times, saying, "I was broken." Through his lawyer, Simmons acknowledged to the newspaper that he engaged in "inappropriate conduct" with Dixon while she worked at Def Jam. But he "emphatically states that he did not have sex with her," his lawyer said.

Another, Tina Baker, said Simmons raped her in the early '90s, when he was her manager. "I didn't sing for almost a year," Baker was quoted as saying. After the assault, she said, "I went into oblivion." Through his lawyer, Simmons told the Times he had "no recollection of ever having any sexual relations with Ms. Baker."

A third, Toni Sallie, a music journalist, dated Simmons briefly in 1987. A year later, in 1988, Simmons invited her to his Manhattan apartment for a party, she told the Times, but when she arrived she was the only one there, and Simmons led her to his bedroom, pushed her on the bed and raped her. "We were fighting. I said no," she was quoted as saying. The Times said that Simmons, through his lawyer, acknowledged he had dated Sallie but denied nonconsensual sex.

In each case, the paper said, friends and associates of the accusers said they had been told of the incidents at the time.

The paper quoted a fourth woman, Christina Moore, who accused Simmons of groping her during a brief encounter in Miami in 2014.

"The current allegations sent to me by the New York Times range from the patently untrue to the frivolous and hurtful. The presumption of innocent until proven guilty must not be replaced by 'Guilty by Accusation,'" Simmons said in his statement.

He said he would "relentlessly fight against any untruthful character assassination that paints me as a man of violence."

The allegations weren't the first to hit the producer and entrepreneur recently. Late last month, HBO said it would edit out any link to Simmons in its "All Def Comedy" show in the wake of an allegation by screenwriter Jenny Lumet, who said Simmons had sex with her more than two decades ago despite her repeated demands that he stop. Simmons said he had a different memory of the night but apologized and said he was stepping away from his companies.

Lumet said she went public after model Keri Claussen Khalighi said Simmons coerced her to perform a sex act and later penetrated her without her consent in his New York apartment in 1991. Simmons said the sex with Klalighi was consensual.

Simmons and Rick Rubin founded Def Jam Recordings was founded in 1984. It made stars of such hip-hop artists as LL Cool J, Slick Rick, The Beastie Boys and Public Enemy, and its roster currently includes Kanye West, Justin Bieber, Frank Ocean, Alessia Cara, Jeremih, Jeezy, Iggy Azalea, Big Sean, Nas and 2 Chainz.

Driver says Kylo Ren isn't evil, he just thinks he's right

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He might have callously killed his father Han Solo, but like all well-written "bad guys," Kylo Ren is the hero of his own Star Wars story.

"He is someone who doesn't think of himself as evil, but thinks of himself as right," says Adam Driver, who reprises his role as the conflicted Kylo Ren in "Star Wars: The Last Jedi."

"It's definitely more exciting to play because I don't think I know what pure evil is, nor does that seem to be something that sustains itself or is interesting to watch," Driver says. "Watching people who feel kind of morally justified to behave the way they do is in a way more unpredictable and dangerous because there's nothing that they won't do to accomplish their mission because they feel empowered in being right."

Driver is more guarded than most about revealing anything about "The Last Jedi," which hits theaters Friday, or even discussing what Kylo Ren was thinking when he killed Han, or when he battled Rey at the very end of the "The Force Awakens."

"I don't think I can say what he saw (in Rey) but there is something familiar that he sees that hopefully he wrestles with in 'The Last Jedi,'" Driver says. "There is something about thinking you're on a singular journey and then kind of having your faith questioned by something new."

The 34-year-old actor, who had previously been best known for his role on HBO's "Girls," says his anonymity has mostly gone away since joining the Star Wars galaxy but that it's ok.

"Sometimes going places just requires more planning. But the scale of those movies, because they're so multi-generational, or cross generational, the amount of people who come up to you and recognize you is kind of unpredictable," he says. "But the kid part of it is for me the most fun: Seeing kids, or people bringing their kids or supplying their kids with lightsabers. I love that part. But they're usually confused, like "Why is Kylo Ren wearing a jogging suit?"

The kids who are especially taken with Kylo give him slight pause, though.

"I worry about them," Driver laughs. "Especially if they're with their father."

Fox News host Jeanine Pirro sued for defamation

In this March 26, 2016, file photo, Black Lives Matter activist DeRay Mckesson chats with campaign volunteers in Baltimore.

NEW YORK (AP)—A civil rights activist is suing Fox News host Jeanine Pirro, claiming she defamed him while discussing a lawsuit against the Black Lives Matter movement that was later dismissed.

The lawsuit states that DeRay McKesson was falsely arrested in 2016 while attending a protest in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in which a police officer was struck in the face with a rock and seriously injured.

The officer sued the Black Lives Matter movement and McKesson for his injuries.

After the officer's lawsuit was dismissed, Pirro "made a series of outrageously false and defamatory statements about Mr. McKesson, including that he directed someone to hit the police officer in the face with a rock," McKesson's lawsuit said.

Pirro's statements, which were made during an appearance on the Fox News show "Fox & Friends," were extremely dangerous and continue to endanger McKesson, the lawsuit said.

Fox News said Pirro's statements are protected speech.

"We informed Mr. McKesson's counsel that our commentary was fully protected under the First Amendment and the privilege for reports of judicial proceedings. We will defend this case vigorously," the statement said.

The suit, which also names Fox News Network, was filed in New York on Tuesday.

Last month, Pirro, a former Westchester County district attorney and host of the Fox News Channel show "Justice with Judge Jeanine," was issued a speeding ticket for driving 119 mph (192 kph) in a 65 mph (105 kph) zone in upstate New York.

Oprah Winfrey to receive Cecil B. DeMille Award at Globes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oprah Winfrey will receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award at January's Golden Globes.

Morgan Freeman made the announcement for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association during its broadcast of the "Golden Globe 75th Anniversary Special" Wednesday on NBC.

Winfrey

HFPA President Meher Tatna called Winfrey "one of the most respected and admired figures today" and "one of the most influential women of our time" in a statement Wednesday.

The DeMille Award is given annually to an "individual who has made an incredible impact on the world of entertainment." Past recipients include Freeman, Meryl Streep, Jodie Foster, Barbra Streisand, Sidney Poitier and Lucille Ball.

Winfrey will receive the award during the 75th annual Golden Globe Awards ceremony on Jan. 7, 2018.

Rock Hall 2018 class: Nina Simone, Bon Jovi, the Moody Blues

NEW YORK (AP)—Iconic singer Nina Simone and New Jersey rockers Bon Jovi lead the 2018 class of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees, which includes four first-time nominees.

The Cars, as well as first-time contenders Dire Straits, The Moody Blues and Sister Rosetta Tharpe, also are part of the 2018 class announced Wednesday. They will be inducted on April 14, in Cleveland, Ohio.

The six inductees were chosen from a group of 19 nominees, including Radiohead, who were expected to enter in the Rock Hall in their first year of eligibility, but didn't make it.

Tharpe, a pioneering guitarist who performed gospel music and was known to some as "the godmother of rock 'n' roll," will be inducted with the "Award for Early Influence." She died in 1973. The other five acts will be inducted as performers.

The jazzy and soulful Simone, also a first-time nominee, was a leader in pushing for civil rights and influenced the likes of Alicia Keys and Aretha Franklin before her death in 2003.

AP

In this June 27, 1985, file photo, Nina Simone performs at Avery Fisher Hall in New York. Simone will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on April 14, 2018 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Bon Jovi, first nominated in 2011 and again this year, have sold more than 120 million albums and launched No. 1 hits with "Livin' on a Prayer," ''You Give Love a Bad Name," ''Bad Medicine" and "I'll Be There for You."

In an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday, Jon Bon Jovi said the news was "wonderful. It's rewarding. It's humbling."

"I didn't know how long things would last because I never envisioned 35 years later. I could have never dreamt of that," he added. "I'm happy for the whole band, my family and for me."

He will be inducted alongside current bandmates David Bryan and Tico Torres, as well as former members Richie Sambora and Alec John Such. Sambora left in 2013; Such left in 1994.

The frontman said he and the other current members haven't spoken to Sambora since he left the group four years ago, but said he invites the performer, along with Such, to be part of the Rock Hall festivities.

"(Sambora) had things he had to deal with and (he) didn't show up anymore. I respect that," Bon Jovi said. "He's absolutely invited and will be asked to participate in every aspect, including the performance, as will Alex Such ... and they'll be able to join the band, the current band, onstage. They'll be most welcomed."

In another interview Wednesday with the AP, Sambora said he accepts Bon Jovi's offer: "Sure, of course. There's a lot to have gratitude for. There's no malice. I have no malice toward anybody. There's none of that— that's for sure."

"I don't take one minute for granted. I wake up and I'm a happy dude," added Sambora, who will release a new EP on Friday under his duo with guitarist Orianthi called RSO. "This is one of those days where you go, 'Thank you.' It's nice to be recognized."

PBS suspends distribution of Smiley show for misconduct

LOS ANGELES (AP)—PBS said Wednesday it has indefinitely suspended distribution of Tavis Smiley's talk show after an independent investigation uncovered "multiple, credible allegations" of misconduct by its host.

PBS said it had engaged an outside law firm to investigate "troubling allegations" against the host, it said in a statement.

"This investigation included interviews with witnesses as well as with Mr. Smiley," the statement said. "The inquiry uncovered multiple, credible allegations of conduct that is inconsistent with the values and standards of PBS, and the totality of this information led to today's decision."

A representative for PBS declined to specify the nature of the allegations against Smiley.

His nightly program has aired on PBS since 2004.

Representatives for Smiley did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Family tragedy raises concern about history of mental illness

DEAR ABBY: I have a 14-year-old daughter I have raised alone. Her father has never been in her life, nor has he been in the lives of his other children with other women. He has a long history of criminal behavior and mental illness. Although he hasn't been part of her life, I have done everything in my power to keep her in touch with her siblings.

I just learned via the news and social media that her brother who is also 14 (and lives nearby with his grandparents), is being charged with two counts of capital murder. He reportedly shot both his grandparents. He had no other previous issues, and there were no warning signs.

I am torn inside trying to figure out how to break the news to my daughter. She's going through her own teenage issues, and I'm afraid the news will crush her. I need to figure this out ASAP, before she hears about it at school or from social media. My other major concern as a parent is, could their father have passed along to her his mental illness?

SCARED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR SCARED: This kind of awful news travels via television, social media and word of mouth faster than lightning. By the time this letter is published, your daughter will have already learned about this family tragedy.

Rarely, if ever, does this kind of acting out happen in a vacuum. Healthy children and young adults rarely—if ever—"snap" out of nowhere. Because you are concerned about the level of stress your daughter is experiencing, please waste no time in scheduling some sessions for BOTH of you with a licensed mental health professional. If this will create financial hardship, contact the department of mental health in your community because through it you may be able to find a therapist who charges on a sliding financial scale.

DEAR ABBY: My beloved husband died in 1993 from an AIDS-related cancer. He contracted the disease from a blood transfusion during surgery. I elected to tell only close family members about his HIV. I was still quite young when he died.

Now when people ask me why I didn't remarry, I don't know how to reply. I didn't contract the disease from him, but people are still fearful of the word AIDS. I have never dated or sought a relationship with a man since my husband's passing. I still love him and have no regrets, but I don't know what to say. Please help.

LONGTIME WIDOW

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

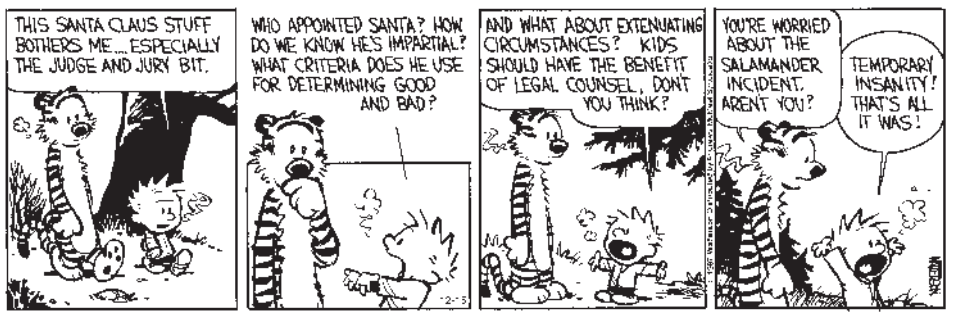
DEAR LONGTIME WIDOW: You are under no obligation to tell your life story to someone who asks that question casually. To someone like that, all you should say is what you wrote to me, "I still love him, and I have no regrets." The rest is nobody's business.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

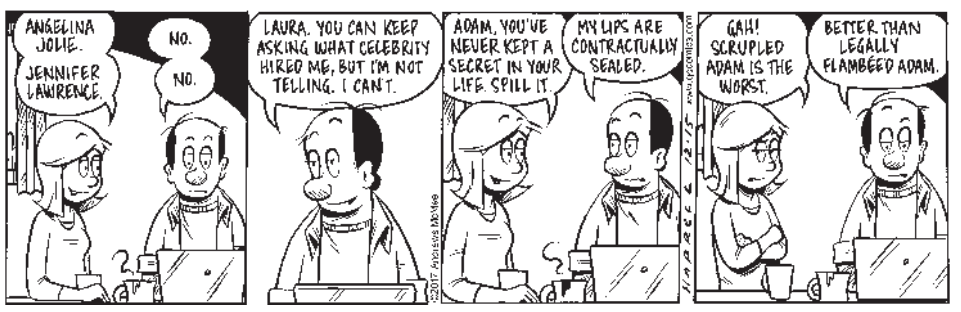

THIS SANTA CLAUS STUFF BOTHERS ME... ESPECIALLY THE JUDGE AND JURY BIT.
WHO APPOINTED SANTA? HOW DO WE KNOW HE'S IMPARTIAL? WHAT CRITERIA DOES HE USE FOR DETERMINING GOOD AND BAD?
AND WHAT ABOUT EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES? KIDS SHOULD HAVE THE BENEFIT OF LEGAL COUNSEL, DON'T YOU THINK?
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE SALAMANDER INCIDENT, AREN'T YOU?
TEMPORARY INSANITY! THAT'S ALL IT WAS!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ANGELINA JOLIE.
JENNIFER LAWRENCE.
NO.
NO.
LAURA. YOU CAN KEEP ASKING WHAT CELEBRITY HIRED ME, BUT I'M NOT TELLING. I CAN'T.
ADAM, YOU'VE NEVER KEPT A SECRET IN YOUR LIFE. SPILL IT.
MY LIPS ARE CONTRACTUALLY SEALED.
GAH! SCRUPLED ADAM IS THE WORST.
BETTER THAN LEGALLY FLAMBÉED ADAM.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT DO YOU HATE MOST ABOUT THE HOLIDAYS?... CROWDS? TRAFFIC? BILLS? OVERPLAYED CAROLS?
WHINY GUYS WHO SIT NEXT TO ME AT THE BAR.
YEAH, ME TOO. LUCKILY, IT'S JUST YOU AND ME HERE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

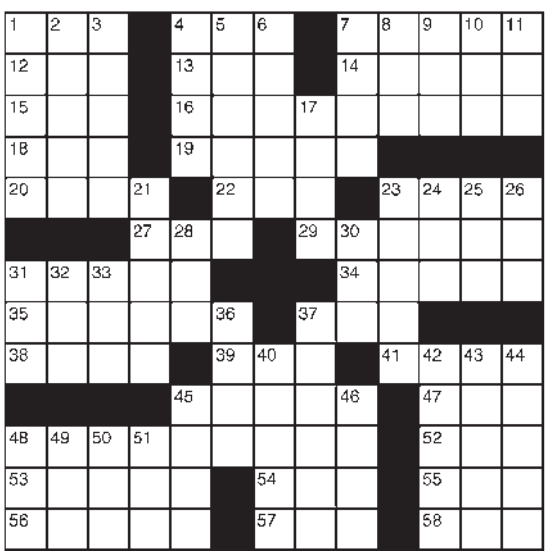
ACROSS
1 Resort
4 Pot-bellied pet
7 Uses an egg-beater
12 Wee bit
13 Inseparable
14 Mortal
15 Half of bi-
16 Alert
18 Service charge
19 Dutch city, with "The"
20 Err
22 Male cat
23 Lighten
27 Packed away
29 Intrepid
31 Change
34 Commercial cow
35 India-Pakistan region
37 Diner dessert
38 Jason's ship
39 "Simpsons" storekeeper
41 Fixes illegally
45 Engine hums
47 Gun lobby org.
48 Going places
52 Rail
53 Black — spider
54 PBS funder
55 Egg (Pref.)
56 Endures
57 Workout site
58 Ballot marks

DOWN
1 Cram
2 Talk-show group
3 Farewell
4 Milne bruin
5 Congenital
6 Very beginning
7 Roller coaster cry
8 Center
9 "— Little Teapot"
10 Crony
11 NBC sketch show
17 Camel feature
21 Bluegrass instrument
23 Swiss mathematician
24 Rm. coolers
25 Enjoy Vail
26 Needle hole
28 Airport screening org.
30 Floral garland
31 IRS employee
32 Owned by us
33 Gerund ending
36 "The Wizard of Oz" author
37 Provide provisions
40 Tine
42 Office mail holder
43 Burial place
44 Ganges garments
45 Church seating
46 Fashion line?
48 Barn bird
49 Actress Long
50 QB stats
51 Stolen

Solution time: 25 mins.

Z	A	G		D	A	B	S		C	H	U	M
I	D	C		A	R	E	A		H	E	R	O
G	O	N	E	G	I	R	L		I	R	A	N
			J	O	G		T	A	N	G	E	L	O
S	C	C	N	E	S		B	A	N			
A	O	L		R	A	M		H	O	H	U	M
S	H	A	G		C	I	A		N	E	R	O
H	O	S	E	S		A	R	C		P	G	A
			O	R	G		K	I	T	T	E	N
V	I	T	R	I	O			R	E	A		
I	B	E	G		T	A	R	A	G	O	N	
S	I	S			T	U	T	J		O	S	E
A	S	T	A		I	D	E	S		N	U	T

Yesterday's answer 12-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Adam Brody, 38; Julie Taymor, 65; Don Johnson, 68; Tim Conway, 84.

Happy Birthday: Be cautious when discussing important matters. Don't give anyone the opportunity to misuse your words or to take advantage of your kindness or generosity. Keep your personal thoughts, plans and passwords a secret. Take the time to work on your ideas and to get a handle on what you want to see unfold down the road. Make this year count. Your numbers are 6, 10, 17, 23, 29, 37, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't base a money deal or medical decision on what someone tells you. Do your own research and go to experts to ensure that you have all the information you require to make an educated decision. Don't leave anything to chance. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Possessiveness will be costly. Try not to make demands. Offering others freedom will bring you closer to what you ultimately want. Trust and equality are essential if you want to form a workable relationship. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Do what's expected of you and keep moving forward. Put any uncertainty behind you by clearing up unfinished business. A physical change will boost your morale. Love and romance will enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take care of your responsibilities. Don't leave it up to someone else to do what's expected of you. It's important to make exceptions for those less able, but don't take the blame for something you didn't do. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* A change to the way you do your job or how you get along with your peers will determine how much support you receive. Networking is encouraged as well as doing your best to avoid indulgent behavior. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Emotions will surface within your domestic environment. Changes should be looked at as progress instead of with fear and hesitation. It may be difficult to be displaced, but the results will be worth it in the end. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Rely on past experience when dealing with domestic issues or people who use pressure tactics to try and change your mind. Be creative and offer unique solutions. Preparation will be the key to getting what you want. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Home, family and personal relationships should be nurtured. Hold heart-to-heart discussions, offering suggestions and solutions when called for. Once you have clarified what you want, it will be easier to move forward with your plans. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Protect against loss, theft and someone who is trying to weasel his or her way into your plans. Be secretive about the personal changes you want to make. Get matters in order and prepare to make a strategic and unexpected move. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Put more force behind your personal goals. Take time to enforce what you want when it comes to your relationships with others. Both personal and professional partnerships can be dealt with if you are willing to share. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't knock yourself out trying to impress someone who is critical and unaccommodating. Find the best way to use your skills, discipline and knowledge to help you get ahead. Romance will improve your day. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Look over contracts and agreements and consider how you can make changes that will favor you. Staying in control of a situation that involves others will be in your best interest. Don't give in to emotional blackmail. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are secretive, protective and intelligent. You are tireless and courageous.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8	9		3	2		
6			1			9		5
8		9			6			3
				7				
5			4			7		1
2		3			5			7
		4	6		2	1		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	4	6	2	8	7	9	1	5
7	5	2	9	1	6	3	8	4
9	1	8	4	3	5	2	7	6
5	2	1	8	7	9	4	6	3
8	9	4	3	6	2	7	5	1
6	7	3	1	5	4	8	9	2
1	8	9	5	2	3	6	4	7
2	6	5	7	4	8	1	3	9
4	3	7	6	9	1	5	2	8

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SENDING OUT JOB QUOTES Solution: 9 letters

E	E	C	I	R	P	R	O	D	U	C	T	S	N	W
L	X	Q	U	A	N	T	I	T	Y	A	E	A	E	I
B	E	C	I	O	V	N	I	T	M	L	M	E	C	R
A	E	D	H	S	I	G	N	R	L	E	K	O	S	E
X	Y	T	O	A	E	W	O	E	R	S	M	S	N	T
A	E	C	U	L	N	F	R	E	T	M	E	O	I	R
T	N	A	R	A	M	G	M	N	I	N	I	B	S	A
E	O	R	S	R	P	O	E	T	I	T	E	L	R	N
E	M	T	A	Y	T	M	M	S	P	D	S	S	A	S
H	U	N	T	S	Y	U	U	M	A	M	L	A	T	F
S	M	O	U	A	M	B	E	M	R	H	S	L	E	E
E	I	C	P	I	E	X	S	E	D	B	C	E	I	R
M	X	X	N	R	E	N	T	A	L	A	S	R	N	B
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Thunder hold off Pacers in George's return to Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Paul George struggled on homecoming night.

He still left town with the crown.

On a night the four-time All-Star was repeatedly booed and couldn't seem to make a shot, he finally sunk two free throws with 10.7 seconds left Wednesday to seal Oklahoma City's 100-95 victory at Indiana.

"Yeah, I'm happy this circus is over with. Everybody can move on," George said. "I understood what the environment was going to be, so it wasn't a surprise."

Everything from finding the visiting locker room to dealing with the fans was different, and it seemed to take a toll.

George went 3 of 14 from the field, 2 of 7 on 3-pointers, had two rebounds and four turnovers. But spurned fans who are still upset George's camp went public with his free agent intentions last summer made sure the box score was the most pleasant part of George's night.

When first he walked onto the court for warmups, one fan shouted "traitor!" During player introductions, the boos reached a crescendo and every time he touched the ball, the boo-birds returned with full force. The only cheers came when George made a mistake or drew a foul.

Fortunately, George's friends helped him out.

Steven Adams finished with 23 points and 13 rebounds while reigning MVP Russell Westbrook recorded his ninth triple-double of the season—10 points, 17 rebounds and 12 assists.

And when George came up with the final steal of the game, he pumped his arms and his teammates savored the moment as much as he did.

"I thought he had incredible poise tonight," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "Everybody was asking how is he and I hadn't really noticed anything different. I thought his defense—certainly on the side out of bounds play—was really critical for us."

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder forward Paul George (13) goes up for a dunk in front of Indiana Pacers forward Bojan Bogdanovic (44) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017.

The trade for Victor Oladipo and Domantas Sabonis was widely panned as below market value, but has turned out pretty well so far for the Pacers.

Oladipo led Indiana with 19 points and nearly brought them all the way back from an 11-point deficit with 5:16 left. The Pacers got to 96-94 with 1:07 to go and had a chance to tie it when they got the ball with 15.2 seconds left and down 98-95.

Instead, George came up with the steal and made the free throws to seal the win, silence the crowd, end the Pacers' four-game winning streak and leave town as the king of the night.

"That team showed us that when you're playing against these elite teams, it's going to be a physical game and we didn't match that tonight," Pacers coach Nate McMillan said.

Rockets 108, Hornets 96

In Houston, Chris Paul scored a season-high 31 points, James Harden added 21 and Houston beat Charlotte to extend its NBA-best winning streak to 11 games.

The Rockets have won 17 of their last 18 games to improve to 22-4, the best record in the league.

Houston led by one late in the first before scoring 25 straight points over the end of that quarter and the beginning of the second to make it 49-23.

Dwight Howard tied a season high with 26 points and had 18 rebounds and three blocks for the Hornets. They've dropped nine of their last 10.

Celtics 124, Nuggets 118

In Boston, Kyrie Irving had 33 points and Boston shot a season-high 60 percent from the field to rout Denver in the Celtics' highest-scoring game of the season.

Irving added seven assists in his return after missing a blowout loss Monday night in Chicago because of a bruised left quadriceps. It was his eighth game this season with 30 or more points. Jaylen Brown finished with 26 points and five rebounds.

Gary Harris led the Nuggets with a career-high 36 points and six assists. Jamal Murray added 28 points and 10 assists. Denver's Nikola Jokic sat out his seventh straight game with a left ankle sprain.

Wizards 93, Grizzlies 87

In Washington, Bradley Beal scored 18 points and John Wall had 13 in his return from a sore knee to help Washington hold off Memphis.

Beal scored 11 points in the fourth quarter, hitting three 3-pointers. Otto Porter Jr. added 14 points, and Marcin Gortat had 12. Wall missed nine games, with Washington going 4-5 in his absence.

Andrew Harrison led Memphis with 20 points, JaMychal Green had 15 points and 15 rebounds, and Marc Gasol had 15 points and 10 rebounds. The Grizzlies have lost five straight and 16 out of 17.

Trail Blazers 102, Heat 95

In Miami, Damian Lillard scored seven of his 18 points in the final 3:16, and the Portland Trail Blazers overcame a 16-point second-half deficit to beat Miami and snap a five-game losing streak.

Lillard had only one field goal in the first 31 minutes. But he converted a three-point play put the Trail Blazers ahead to stay, 98-95, and sank two free throws on their next possession for a five-point lead. CJ McCollum scored 28 points for the Trail Blazers.

Miami reserve Wayne Ellington sank seven 3-pointers and scored a season-high 24 points.

Pelicans 115, Bucks 108

In New Orleans, DeMarcus Cousins had 26 points and 13 rebounds and New Orleans beat Milwaukee.

The Pelicans turned the ball over 21 times, with nine committed by Cousins, but the mercurial All-Star center came through in the clutch with a couple of soaring dunks—one on a putback and another on a cut down the lane—and added a 3-pointer with 22 seconds left that put it virtually out of reach.

Anthony Davis returned from a one-game absence caused by a nagging adductor injury to score 25 points and grab 10 rebounds. Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points and nine rebounds for Milwaukee.

Bulls 103, Jazz 100

In Chicago, Nikola Mirotic scored 29 points, Kris Dunn hit a clutch jumper with 22 seconds left and Chicago beat Utah for its fourth straight victory.

Mirotic made 11 of 18 shots from the field and grabbed nine rebounds in his best performance since he returned last week after missing the start of the season with facial fractures. The 6-foot-10 forward got hurt in a practice fight with teammate Bobby Portis, throwing the future of both players in question, but the Bulls are perfect since Mirotic returned to the court.

Donovan Mitchell led Utah with 32 points on 15-for-26 shooting.

Raptors 115, Suns 109

In Phoenix, DeMar DeRozan matched his season high with 37 points and Toronto beat Phoenix for its seventh victory in eight games.

DeRozan scored 18 points in the third quarter and Toronto led by as many as 15 before the Suns rallied in the fourth. Serge Ibaka had 21 points and 13 rebounds, and Jonas Valanciunas added 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Raptors. Toronto was 3-1 on its four-game trip.

Troy Daniels led the Suns with a season-high 32 points on 11-of-16 shooting, including 7 of 10 on 3-pointers. Phoenix was lost five straight and seven of eight -- the last four losses with star guard Devin Booker sidelined by a groin injury.

Clippers 106, Magic 95

In Orlando, Lou Williams scored 31 points, DeAndre Jordan had 16 points and 20 rebounds and Los Angeles beat Orelando to open a four-game trip.

Jonathon Simmons scored 20 points for the Magic. They have lost 14 of 17.

IOC confident 2020 Tokyo Games will not be tainted by doping

TOKYO (AP)—The International Olympic Committee expects Japan to lead the way against doping when Tokyo hosts the 2020 Olympics.

IOC vice president John Coates said Wednesday that Japan had "one of the finest records" in the world when it comes to the fight against doping.

"You've got legislation with the parliament to further strengthen your anti-doping regime so I don't think you need to hold any fears about the anti-doping environment that the organizing committee, Japan sports and the government will provide," Coates said on the final day of a three-day evaluation of Tokyo's preparations.

Coates said Japanese organizers have fulfilled their obligations to provide anti-doping at the highest level with an accredited laboratory.

"We can't be relaxed but you've certainly laid the groundwork for many, many years for an anti-doping system for the Tokyo Games that will be of the highest integrity," said Coates, who chairs the 2020 coordination commission.

Coates' comments come after the IOC ruled last week that all Russians must compete under the Olympic flag as "Olympic Athletes from Russia" at the upcoming Pyeongchang Games following accusations of a state-sponsored doping scheme at the 2014 Sochi Games.

Despite the ban, Russian officials still expect more than 200 of their athletes to compete in South Korea.

Coates also spoke about the need for Tokyo organizers to cut costs for the games.

The IOC is seeking to make the games more affordable as part of President Thomas Bach's "Agenda 2020" reforms. In a bid to cut costs, Tokyo organizers have moved several events to existing facilities in neighboring prefectures.

JD Martinez meets and greets, Ozuna to Cards

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—J.D. Martinez has a chance to see in person what his monster year is worth.

The free-agent star who hit .303 with 45 home runs was ready for a meet-and-greet session with teams at the winter meetings. The Boston Red Sox wanted to see him, having hit the fewest homers in the majors last season.

"The only reason I think you have players talk to owners, presidents and general managers is there's a request to really get to know the player," agent Scott Boras said Wednesday. "They get to ask questions that they can never ask because they're never in front of the player."

St. Louis added a power bat, swinging a deal for Marlins outfielder Marcell Ozuna, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The move came just a few days after Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton turned down a trade to the Cardinals.

The bullpen carousel continued to turn, too.

Side-arming Joe Smith moved to the World Series champion Houston Astros, who wanted a right-hander tough on righty hitters after Luke Gregerson went to St. Louis.

Seattle appeared to close in on Juan Nicasio, who led the National League with 76 appearances. The New York Mets reached a deal with righty Anthony Swarzak, a person familiar with the talks

AP

Miami Marlins' Marcell Ozuna, right, slides past Atlanta Braves catcher Kurt Suzuki into home plate to score on a single by Christian Yelich during the fifth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017, in Miami.

told the AP.

Minnesota boosted its rotation—for late 2018, at the earliest. The Twins agreed to a $10 million, two-year contract with former Yankees righty Michael Pineda, who had Tommy John surgery last July.

Martinez totaled 104 RBI and a 1.066 OPS with Detroit and Arizona, and his season included a four-homer game for the Diamondbacks. The 30-year-old lives in Florida and was going to hit the meetings before they end Thursday.

The Red Sox need power, a feeling heightened by the Yankees completing a trade for Stanton this week, less than a month after he won the NL MVP by leading with majors with 59 home runs and 132 RBI.

Ozuna joined Stanton and second baseman Dee Gordon as All-Stars traded by Miami as new CEO Derek Jeter and the Marlins cut payroll.

"Ozuna is one of those names that you have to have great respect, especially as much we see him," Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said.

An All-Star the last two seasons, the 27-year-old Ozuna set career bests this season with a .312 average, 37 homers and 124 RBI. He is eligible for salary arbitration and likely will earn more than $10 million.

The Cardinals quickly found a bopper after Stanton invoked his no-trade clause and blocked a deal.

"I was just very impressed the fact that we were involved in those conversations," Matheny said. "Unfortunately, that didn't work, but I think that just kind of parlayed into, OK, now what are we going to do?"

Ozuna's acquisition could prompt the Cardinals to make another trade, with outfielder Stephen Piscotty perhaps heading to Oakland.

While Yu Darvish and Jake Arrieta remain the top free-agent starters on the market, CC Sabathia also is available.

The 37-year-old lefty, who went 14-5 with a 3.69 ERA last season for the Yankees, met this week with Toronto.

"He's a workhorse, man," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said. "He's always pitched well against us. One of the great competitors in the game for a number of years. I thought he looked strong last year."

Sabathia has played since 2009 for the New York Yankees, who would like him to remain.

"He's been a great performer for us, and there may very well be a chance for us to continue working together. May not. It's a business on both ends," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "He's certainly of interest, but because of who he is and what he continues to do, he's of interest elsewhere, too."

Man City racks up record 15th straight league win

LONDON (AP)—Manchester City became the first team in the history of the English top flight to win 15 successive games as they remained 11 points clear at the top of the Premier League table thanks to a 4-0 win over Swansea on Wednesday night.

The Citizens (16-1-0) started on the front foot, but took a little while to get going. Once they did find the first goal, the floodgates opened.

Bernardo Silva benefited from some slack Swansea (3-3-11) possession play and his cross from the right was neatly tucked home by David Silva.

After making a fine save from Sergio Aguero moments later, Lukasz Fabianski was picking the ball out of his net once more after Kevin De Bruyne's wicked free-kick from the left eluded everyone and nestled in the far bottom corner.

Paul Clement made an attacking change at the start of the second period, bringing on Tammy Abraham, but it just made them more open and minutes after missing a golden opportunity, David Silva netted his second after great interplay between him and Raheem Sterling ended with the Spaniard beautifully chipping Fabianski.

The previously luckless Aguero wrapped up matters later on with a wonderful run that took him past several Swansea defenders on the right-hand side of the area before he powerfully found the far corner.

The result sees City's apparent coast towards the title continue, while the hosts are marooned at the bottom of the table.

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QB Foles ready for challenge of replacing Wentz

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Nick Foles is stepping into a pressure situation with a team that has enormous expectations in a city desperate for its first Super Bowl title.

He's no ordinary backup quarterback.

Foles had tremendous success as a starter for the Philadelphia Eagles in 2013 and he experienced failure as the No. 1 quarterback for the St. Louis Rams in 2015. He's won an offensive MVP award at a Pro Bowl, been traded, released and contemplated retirement.

Now, he's the man leading the NFC East champions.

Foles is no Carson Wentz, who was having an MVP-caliber season before he tore his left ACL. But, he's a capable quarterback who won't be overwhelmed by the spotlight.

"He's matured as a quarterback, his leadership ability, his understanding of our offense, of defenses," Eagles coach Doug Pederson said Wednesday. "We always knew he was a smart intellectual quarterback."

Pederson was here was an assistant when former coach Andy Reid selected Foles in the third round of the 2012 draft. Foles started six games that season for a 4-12 team.

He began 2013 as the backup to Michael Vick in Chip Kelly's first season in Philly. Foles replaced Vick after he was injured in October, had a sensational season and led the Eagles to their most recent playoff appearance)—a home loss to New Orleans.

AP
Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Nick Foles looks to pass against the Los Angeles Rams during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, in Los Angeles.

Foles threw 27 TDs and only two picks in 10 starts and posted a passer rating of 119.2, third-highest in league history. He tied an NFL record with seven TD passes in a game at Oakland in November 2013.

Foles wasn't quite as spectacular in 2014, but the Eagles were 6-2 in his eight starts. He tossed 13 TDs, 10 interceptions and missed the final eight games after breaking his collarbone.

Kelly traded him to St. Louis for Sam Bradford in March 2015 and Foles went 4-7 on a 7-9 team. He was released by the Rams and reunited with Reid in Kansas City as Alex Smith's backup. Foles filled in nicely when Smith was injured last season and led the Chiefs to a victory in his only start.

He returned to Philadelphia to back up Wentz on an $11 million, two-year contract.

"I think with experience and age, you gain knowledge and wisdom," Foles said .

"Obviously life changes and you just sort of see the game a little more clearly. Even stepping into the game like the other night, you're in the fourth quarter, you're on the road, it's a big game.

"And you really just go back to your training, you go back to your experiences in life. You know how to sort of live in that moment to execute the plays to help your team win."

Foles rallied the Eagles to a 43-35 win against the Los Angeles Rams by guiding the offense to field goals on consecutive drives after Wentz went down.

He'll get his first start at the New York Giants (2-11) on Sunday against an aggressive defense led by interim coach Steve Spagnuolo.

The Eagles can secure a first-round bye with a win. They'll lock up the NFC's No. 1 seed with two wins in their final three games or one win and one loss by the Vikings (10-3).

"It starts with that chemistry," Foles said. "The teams that I have been on that have been really good have had that, and this is one of them."

While Foles doesn't possess Wentz's scrambling ability and elusiveness, the Eagles don't plan to change their offense. But coaches wouldn't say otherwise. It would make sense to rely more on a strong running game led by Jay Ajayi, LeGarrette Blount and Corey Clement.

"Certainly it starts at quarterback, but it's really built around all the talent that we have on offense," offensive coordinator Frank Reich said.

"And good for us that all our quarterbacks are talented. Now Carson has some unique, physical traits that he does exceptionally well, but it's nothing that Nick can't handle. So we're full-steam ahead."

Wentz had surgery to repair his ACL on Wednesday. Players typically need between nine and 12 months to return to the field.

Goodell, Jones moving on with new contract in place

IRVING, Texas (AP)—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell twice turned to Jerry Jones when asked about his relationship with the powerful Dallas Cowboys owner who tried to scuttle his contract extension.

"Jerry, do I look like I take it personally?" Goodell asked after the second question as Jones, the recent Hall of Fame inductee, winked at him. "'No' is the answer to that question."

A new five-year deal for Goodell had been signed for a week when owners gathered for meetings at a luxury Dallas-area hotel Wednesday. And while Jones was conciliatory, even hugging Goodell when replacing him on the podium, the outspoken billionaire wasn't conceding anything.

Goodell was a bit defiant himself on another topic, contradicting his own lead spokesman who had said earlier in the day that Goodell considered the contract that now runs into 2024 to be his last.

"I haven't made any determinations," Goodell said. "This is something that I'm looking forward to the challenges. I think our league is in a great position. But we obviously have challenges, just like any other industry."

Goodell overcame the challenge from Jones, who threatened to sue over the extension in a dispute that arose after Goodell's decision to suspend star Dallas running back Ezekiel Elliott for six games over domestic violence allegations in a case prosecutors didn't pursue.

Jones has denied that Elliott's suspension played a role in his objections over the power the commissioner wields or his concerns about the way the NFL was handling protests involving the national anthem.

The 75-year-old Jones also was at odds with Atlanta owner Arthur Blank, chairman of the six-person compensation committee that had been unanimously approved in May to complete a deal with Goodell. Jones wanted all the owners to approve the deal.

For Jones, the victory came in owners agreeing to consider changes to the power of the commissioner's role through the league's constitution.

"I'm very rewarded that this exercise of extending Roger has brought that about," Jones said. "I didn't do it. It took the will of 32 owners to get that done. It's an antiquated constitution, an antiquated situation as to the power of the commissioner. This will address that."

League spokesman Joe Lockhart said 90 percent of Goodell's contract will be incentive based, which he said was an increase in non-guaranteed income over previous deals.

KFAS

From Page 36

while Matansa's lone goal was courtesy of Al-Amin Fnu in the 33rd minute.

Two minutes later, Jun Woo Lee broke the tie, while Edwin Kim stretched KFAS's advantage to 2, 3-1, with his conversion in the 36th minute. KFAS hung on to keep the upper hand at the break, as Matansa failed to counter in the remaining nine minutes of the first half.

In the second half, Matansa moved within one anew when Jacob Montes-Sabino found the back of the net in the 54th minute. However, KFAS got the one goal back, thanks to Gil's second conversion, which made the difference, as two minutes before the finale wrapped up Matansa's Daniel Jay Duenas scored to cut the deficit to one. Matansa ran out of time to force another deadlock, while KFAs used the ticking clock to keep its shaky lead and win the division crown.

Meanwhile, the finalists in the Division A title game will be known this Sunday as four teams fight for survival.

In the first semis match at the Hopwood pitch at 12pm, No. 1 seed TanHoldings will take on Okadaya, while the Teen Ayuyus and Kanoa will duel in the other Final Four tiff at 3pm. Winners of Sunday's pair of matches will collide in the finale set for Dec. 23. TanHoldings and the Teen Ayuyus automatically made it to the semis after their Top 2 finish at the end of the elimination round. Kanoa took the third Final Four ticket following a 3-0 win over Paire, and Okadaya got the last via its 3-0 forfeiture victory versus Sun Palace.

GTC

From Page 36

round, which will be played on Dec. 19 at the Hopwood pitch.

Carvin Cruzat, Nolan Ngewakl, and Wataru Kadokura teamed up in GTC's demolition of Kagman with the former scoring four goals. Ngewakl and Kadokura chipped in three goals each. Cruzat also knocked in the pair of goals in the Binadus' victory over Koblerville last week.

In the Mt. Carmel-WSR tiff last Tuesday, Markus Toves drilled the two goals for the Knights and registered four in their lopsided win over Kagman.

In the girls division, WSR was on the winning end of its duel against Mt. Carmel, as the Kingfishers escaped with a 1-0 triumph.

Koblerville also had a close victory versus GTC last week, thanks to Tanaiya Willy's goal in the first half.

KNIGHTS

From Page 36

ning all the titles. Mt. Carmel then fought back from that 0-4 record when it topped the next three seasons of the league, starting its run with a 55-46 victory over Eucon International School and following it up with back-to-back triumphs over MBA, 70-35 and 50-39.

"It's been a while since we last made it to the finals and we expect another tough battle against Mt. Carmel in tomorrow's (today) finals," said Genesis Prieto, who coaches the Eagles along with Frank Dalusong.

"We will try our very best to win again and bring the crown back to GCA," Prieto added.

Mt. Carmel coach Francis San Nicolas acknowledged that his Knights are favored in the finals, having beaten the Eagles twice in the elimination, 55-37 and 48-42. However, he cautioned his players not to be complacent and to keep on doing the things that brought them into the finals.

"It's just one game and it's 50-50. You'll never know will happen, so we have to keep our focus in the game. Everybody has to contribute, especially on defense. We also have to work early in the game. We have the tendency to start slow," San Nicolas said.

In their semis game against MBA, Mt. Carmel was up by only a deuce, 17-15. Angelo Factor scored 9 of the Knights' total points in the opening period, while Dave Lee matched that to keep MBA afloat. The 3-time champions then picked up their scoring in the second quarter to widen the gap, 37-22. Mt. Carmel knocked in four triples in that pivotal canto and retained the double-digit lead in the second half as its continued to burn the hoops and spread the wealth, while MBA leaned heavily on Lee.

Meanwhile, in the second semis match, GCA also started slow as it was held to a deadlock after the first quarter 14-14, before buckling down to work in the next three frames for a 21-point winning margin.

First Game

MCS 72 — Factor 17, Yun 14, Malonzo 10, Cepeda 8, Ace Evangelista 6, Aven Evangelista 5, Tenorio 4, Richardson 4, Ada 3, Kiser 2.

MBA 45 — Lee 22, Park 11, Son 6, Roh 4, Hwang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-15, 37-22, 55-34, 72-45.

2nd Ali"i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Silencer's Mico Usi, left, rams into the defense of Batang Bear Brand's Jeff Che during the second quarter of their title game in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League held early this month at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Silencer's Amor Zapata, right, tries to squeeze in a shot against the defense of Batang Bear Brand's Jeff Che.

The Silencer's Mike Estores, right, attempts to dribble out of the defense of Batang Bear Brand's Elmer Esdrelon.

Batang Bear Brand's Jeff Che, left, unloads a shot in front of the defense of the Silencer's Mike Estores.

Batang Bear Brand's Elmer Esdrelon, right, drives against the Silencer's Mike Estores.

The Silencer's Patrick Morales, right, gets away with a fastbreak layup, while Batang Bear Brand's Ron Gamboa looks on.

Batang Bear Brand's Peter Ariar, center, splits the defense of the Silencer's Mike Estores, left, and Amor Zapata.

Batang Bear Brand's Jun Flores goes up for a point-blank shot after eluding a phalanx of Silencer defenders.

Thunder hold off Pacers in George's return to Indiana

PAGE 32

Saipan Tribune
Sports

JD Martinez meets and greets, Ozuna to Cards

PAGE 33

Knights vs Eagles in finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School and Grace Christian Academy revived their storied rivalry after advancing to the championship game in the high school division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League.

The Knights punched the first finals ticket after crushing Marianas Baptist Academy, 72-45, while the Eagles also eased their way to today's title match after whipping Agape Christian School in the second semis game, 68-47, yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Mt. Carmel-GCA championship showdown this afternoon at 4:30pm will be their fifth finals duel since 2009. The Eagles met the Knights in the boys high school division finals for four straight seasons (2009 to 2013) with the former win-

See KNIGHTS on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mt. Carmel School's Eric Kiser, left, looks for a teammate to pass to as he his closely defended by Marianas Baptist Academy's Jeong Min Son during the fourth quarter of their semis game in the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

KFAS stuns Matansa, tops Division B

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Edwin Kim, seen here attacking the defense of Shirley's Football Club, scored one goal in Korean Football Association on Saipan's 4-3 win against Matansa in the Division B finals of the M-League last Sunday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Korean Football Association on Saipan dealt Matansa Football Club a heartbreaker after posting a 4-3 victory in the Division B finals of the M-League last Sunday's at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Chong Koo Gil hit the insurance for KFAS, making his second goal in the 81st minute of the title match to foil Matansa's comeback bid in the second half.

The loss was first for Matansa, which swept the regular season and extended its winning run to seven after a 9-2 triumph over the CNMI Women's National Team in the semifinals before KFAS beat the former in the most important match in the competition.

Matansa absorbed the disastrous defeat, as it could not get its offensive game going in the first half with one of its main scorers—Michiteru Mita—missing the finals. Mita left for Hong early Sunday morning to join the CNMI Boys U18 National Team in its training camp in Hong Kong.

Sans Mita, Matansa managed to score only one goal in the first 45 minutes of play against the three of KFAS. Gil posted the first goal in the match in the 21st minute,

See KFAS on Page 34

GTC, Mt. Carmel deliver

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and Mt. Carmel School continued to have a strong showing in the boys division of the 2017 NMIFA Fall U11 Interscholastic Soccer League.

GTC, after losing to Mt. Carmel last Dec. 5, notched two straight wins, downing Koblerville Elementary School first last Dec. 7, 2-0, and then whipping Kagman Elementary School last Tuesday, 10-0, for a 3-0-1 win-draw-loss record. The Binadus were scheduled to close out their elimination round assignment yesterday with a game against Garapan Elementary School at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Mt. Carmel, on the other hand, was unbeaten after four games, holding a 3-1-0 slate, pending its last game in the round-robin elimination yesterday against Koblerville. Besides their close win over GTC, the Knights prevailed over Kagman, 7-0 (Dec. 7 game) and versus WSR last Tuesday, 2-0. The defending champions drew Garapan in their season debut early this month.

With Mt. Carmel and GTC likely to finish in the Top 2, they are already assured of the semis berths and will be paired against lower-seeded teams (No. 3 and 4) in the Final Four

See GTC on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Koblerville Elementary School, left, and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School players battle for possession during their game in the 2017 NMIFA Fall U11 Interscholastic Soccer League at the KES pitch last Dec. 7.